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HOOCH TRAGEDY

21 dead, 10 critical in Punjab's Amritsar

NEWS » PAGE 12

CBSE RESULTS OUT

88.39% pass in Class 12, 93.66% in Class 10

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FRESH TENSIONS

India to impose tariffs on U.S., it warns WTO

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DATA POINT

What war hysteria hides

Jingoistic online posts calling for war hide the realities of conflicts

OPINION » PAGE 11

SEALING IT

Atalanta beats Roma, secures CL spot

SPORT » PAGE 18

NEARBY

Strict law needed to curb wheeling on roads: HC

BENGALURU
Taking note of the alarming rise in incidents of wheeling on public roads, the High Court has said that it is the duty of the State to legislate necessary legal provisions and to take stringent measures to suppress this activity. » PAGE 5

BJP to hold Tiranga Yatra

BENGALURU
To mark the success of Operation Sindoor and express solidarity with the Indian armed forces, the BJP will organise a Tiranga Yatra without featuring any party symbols. It will be held on May 15 in Bengaluru. » PAGE 6

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

India reasserts stand on Kashmir after U.S. claims

Kashmir a 'bilateral' issue to be addressed within the framework of India-Pakistan ties, says MEA; trade did not figure in talks between India and the U.S. against the backdrop of Operation Sindoor

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Responding to U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks on the Kashmir issue, India on Tuesday reiterated its "long-standing national position" that regards Jammu and Kashmir as a "bilateral" issue to be addressed within the framework of India-Pakistan ties.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the only subject India wished to raise was Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and that the matter of India-U.S. trade did not figure in the telephone conversations the leadership of India and the U.S. held against the backdrop of Operation Sindoor, which targeted nine terror locations inside Pakistan and PoK on May 7.

"We have a long-standing national position that any issues pertaining to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have to be addressed by India and Pakistan bilaterally. That stated policy has not changed," Mr. Jaiswal said, adding, "The outstanding matter is the vacating of illegally occupied Indian territory [PoK] by Pakistan."

Mr. Trump, who has been speaking on his behind-the-scene role in bringing the hostilities between India and Pakistan to a pause, doubled down on the same in a speech in Saudi Arabia capital Riyadh on Tuesday.

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PM AT ADAMPUR AIRBASE
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Clearing the air | India rebuts Donald Trump's statements against the backdrop of Operation Sindoor and the India-Pakistan peace agreement

Trump/Rubio statements	MEA response
U.S. brokered India-Pakistan ceasefire	Agreement directly via DGMOs; it was requested by Pak. due to 'effective' IAF strikes
Averted nuclear conflict	Military action in conventional domain only
Threatened to stop trade	No discussion on trade with U.S. during Operation Sindoor
Will mediate on Kashmir	Talks will be bilateral, and topic will be PoK's return
Hyphenated India and Pakistan	No hyphenation; international community stands with India on terrorism
India and Pakistan to talk at neutral venue	No such discussion planned

RANDHIR JAISWAL, MEA spokesperson

3 terrorists, including LeT 'commander', killed in J&K

Press Trust of India
SRINAGAR

A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander was among three terrorists killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

Based on a specific input about the presence of terrorists in the Shukroo Keller area of the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation.

They said the search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists fired at the security personnel who retaliated. In the exchange of fire, three terrorists were killed.

A senior police official identified two of them as LeT commander Shahid Kuttay and Adnan Shafi.

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People brave the pouring rain on Raj Bhavan Road in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR (RELATED REPORT, ANOTHER PHOTO ON PAGE 3)

Southwest monsoon moves to Andaman Sea

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced on Tuesday that the southwest monsoon has advanced into some parts of the south Bay of Bengal, the south Andaman Sea, Nicobar Islands, and parts of the north Andaman Sea.

Usually, the monsoon system, which splits into two branches, takes about 10 days to reach mainland India from this region, although the agency has not yet revealed a date for the monsoon's onset over Kerala. The agency is expected to announce an official date later this month, and uses a custom forecast model for this purpose. The normal onset date of the monsoon over Kerala is June 1.

Meteorologists have stated that an early arrival in the Andaman Sea would not necessarily mean the monsoon would reach Kerala earlier.

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Back to classes

Normalcy restored: Schools reopened in Srinagar on Tuesday after remaining closed for several days due to hostilities between the Indian and Pakistani militaries along the Line of Control and the International Border. IMRAN NISSAR

Retail inflation slides to a 69-month low

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation in India eased for the sixth straight month in April 2025, falling to 3.16% – its lowest level in 69 months.

The fall in prices has been driven in large part by sharply easing food prices, especially those of vegetables and pulses.

The monthly Consumer Price Index released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation stood at 3.34% in March 2025, and had been falling consistently since October 2024, when it had hit a 14-month high of 6.21%. April's inflation figures are the lowest since July 2019.

FULL REPORT ON
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HC dismisses PhonePe plea

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "the duty to protect data must yield, where public interest and criminal investigation intersect," the High Court of Karnataka has said that digital payment intermediaries such as PhonePe has no complete immunity under the law from disclosing confidential information about transaction details/account credentials of registered users to the police for investigation in a criminal case.

"The protection of consumer privacy cannot eclipse the lawful imperative of investigating officers to secure evidence and take the investigation to its logical conclusion. Confidentiality must coexist with accountability," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while dismissing a petition filed by PhonePe Pvt. Ltd.

The company had questioned the summons issued by CEN police station, asking the company to give certain information about transactions on a complaint lodged by a person alleging that he had lost money in 2022 while using several digital payment gateways while transferring various amounts to online cricket betting apps.

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Pink Line deadline pushed to 2026

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The city's Namma Metro Pink Line, initially expected to be operational in 2020 and then pushed to December 2025, will once again miss the deadline.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) now says the corridor will become functional in two stages – the elevated section stretching 7.5 km between Kalena Agrahara and Tavarekere will open by March 2026, while the 13.8-km underground segment from Dairy Circle to Nagawara is slated for completion by September 2026.

The Pink Line, spanning a total of 21.3 km, is part of Phase 2 of the city's metro network expansion. It aims to connect the southern point of Kalena Agrahara on Bannerghatta Road with Nagawara on the Outer Ring Road in the northern part of the city.

According to BMRCL officials, the alignment includes 13.8 km of underground track and 7.5 km of elevated viaduct.

The BMRCL had floated the tender for the construction of the 7.5 km of the elevated stretch in 2017. Despite visible progress in laying tracks and undertaking civil works on parts of the line, officials have acknowledged that the underground portion posed significant engineering challenges.

The tunnelling process, they said, was especially arduous owing to Bengaluru's rocky terrain.

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Metro tunnel work in progress near Bamboo Bazaar station in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

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Shouldering the hopes of India's mixed doubles revolution — Manush and Diya's big dreams, bigger responsibilities

This is the first time in a little over a decade that two Indian pairs — Manav-Manush and Manush-Diya — have been seeded in the World Championships. Is this the perfect time for Indian table tennis to widen its horizons?

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Indian table tennis has always focused largely on singles. From Achanta Sharath Kamal and G. Sathiyan to Manika Batra, individuals have broken through on the biggest stage to give the sport's identity some muscle in the country.

However, the event roster for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics has moved the spotlight on doubles with the introduction of the mixed team event in the sport.

Though the International Table Tennis Federation is yet to formalise the format of the mixed team event, there would likely be five matches in a fixture: a mixed doubles match, followed by women's singles, men's singles, women's doubles, and men's doubles.

India's gains in the doubles vertical over the last few years are encouraging. The pair of Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee bagged two historic bronze medals at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games and the Asian Championships in 2024.

In the men's event, Manush Shah (ranked 75th in singles) and Manav Thakkar, ranked No.9 in the world, have been registering key wins. The mixed pairing of Manush and Diya Chitale, ranked 11th in the world, and Diya's partnership with Yashaswini Ghorpade, ranked 19th in the women's doubles event, has also been a shot in the arm for the current crop.

This is the first time in a little over a decade that two Indian pairs – Manav and Manush (eighth) and Manush and Diya (ninth) – have been seeded in the World Championships, scheduled to be held in Doha from May 17 to 25.

The time, therefore, is right for the Table Tennis Federation of India to widen its horizons.

Balancing act

Diya, fresh from a triumphant mixed doubles campaign in the WTT Contender in Tunis, is now eager to divide her energies among all three events - women's singles, doubles (with Yasashwini), and mixed doubles (with Manush).

"I think every category has equal importance now. It's not that singles are more important than doubles or vice versa. India has the best chance to win a medal at the Olympics in the mixed doubles event because we are doing very well in it. I'm sure many would agree," Diya told *The Hindu*.

"In table tennis, everyone plays everything. Now, the mixed team has been introduced. Every event is important to me. My goal is to make it to the mixed doubles quarterfinals at the World Championships," the reigning National singles champion added.

That said, Diya is aware that her strongest event, and the best chance to register solid performances in major events, is in the mixed doubles category with Manush.

This partnership began in October 2023, and the duo has been consistent, reaching four semifinals and four quarterfinals in the last one and a half years.

"We linked up in 2023 and entered the quarterfinals in the very first tournament we entered together - the WTT Contender in Muscat, the same year. Over time, our bonding has gotten much stronger," Diya added.

Manush puts the pair's success down to similar playing styles and the use of plain rubbers.

"Both of us are aggressive players. That was the main reason we came together for the category. It was also the main reason why we thought we could be a prospect at the international level. That apart, the serve and receive games of Diya and I are quite complementary to each other," Manush chimed in.

"We both cheer each other up a lot. I feel that if one of us is not playing so well, the other steps up and tries to help. So that's working well," Diya added.

A fixture that exemplified this synergy was their triumph over Japan's Sora Matsushima and Miwa Harimoto in the final in Tunis. This is a pairing the Indians had lost to earlier in the event's Doha chapter.

"It was the first time that we reached the final of a Contender event. We had played many semifinals before, but we always lost to a few of the top pairs. But I think the pair that we played in the finals in Tunis, we had lost to them earlier this year in the quarterfinals in January," Diya explained.

A turning point for the duo came at the Singapore Smash this year, as they managed to take the fight to some of the top pairs in the sport.

"The Singapore Smash in 2025, where we made it to the quarterfinals, improved our profile. That was the biggest points haul we have accumulated till now," Manush added.

Bridging the gap

The 24-year-old, the reigning men's Senior National champion, from Vadodara identified training with left-handed foreign paddlers as a way to develop further.

"To step up our game, we need to practice more with foreign players who are better than us and who are stronger than us as a pair. We would be looking at this year, along with our [India's] head coach, Massimo (Costantini), to find some good sparring partners. (We need) Especially the left-handed ones, because India doesn't have so many left-handed players. That's a major concern for us, but it's something we are trying to solve."

"Every pair ahead of us in the world ranking has one left-hander and one right-hander. We, as Indians, are not used to taking on high-quality left-handed players. For example, in the WTT Star Contender Chennai in March this year, we lost to the Korean pair of Lim Jonghoon (left-hander) and Shin Yubin (right) in the semifinals. We lost in straight games. The gap between us and the Koreans was wider than we expected at this stage. It was because of a lack of practice against left-handers," reasoned Manush.

This duo has multiple goal posts between the shorter target of the World Championships later this month and the Asian Games next year. A week-long camp in Bengaluru is the first pitstop where some fine-tuning will be done and valuable practice time clocked.

"The goal is to play better as a pair and improve the quality of the game. So, we will take it step by step. We will face tougher pairs in the earlier rounds of the Worlds before going into the quarterfinals. The ultimate goal is to win a medal," Manush declared.

"We are preparing hard at the coaching camp in Bengaluru, and we couldn't have asked for a better preparatory ground for the World Championships as our confidence is high after the triumph in the WTT Contender Tunis, and there are no tournaments before the Worlds," the pair said.

Diya gears up for her first singles and mixed doubles campaign at this level, having represented India previously in two World Team Championships. Manush is headed to his second World Championships in the individuals, with two World Team campaigns under his belt. Should things fall in place for the duo, they hope to break into the top eight rankings by the year's end.

THE GIST

- The event roster for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics has moved the spotlight on doubles with the introduction of the mixed team event in the sport
- India's gains in the doubles vertical over the last few years are encouraging, from Ayhika and Sutirtha Mukherjee, Manav Thakkar, and Manush Shah, and the latter's pairing with Diya Chithale
- Manush and Diya hope to break into the top eight in the world rankings by the end of the year

Class 10

I did not study for more than six hours a day. I also pursued my hobbies like Carnatic music and writing poetry alongside.

Anushka Tonapi, 99%,
Sri Kumaran's Children's Home, Mallasandra

I used to study the portions from the weekdays over the weekend. The revisions before exam were important. I also play tennis and chess which helped me concentrate.

Poojya Pannerkumar, 98.2%,
DPS Bangalore East

The most important thing is to pay attention in class as that is where we pick up most of the things. Taking comprehensive notes in class helped me a lot.

Vivaan Aiyer, 98%,
National Public School, Rajajinagar

CBSE results: State sees a pass percentage of 95.95 in class 12, 98.9 in class 10

Bengaluru region, which includes Karnataka, stands second in class 10, fourth in class 12

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The results of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) students from Karnataka, which were declared on Tuesday, saw a decrease of 1 percentage point in class 12 and 0.36 percentage point in class 10.

While the pass percentage was 95.95 in the class 12 examination, it was 98.9% in class 10 this year. Last year, the pass percentage was 96.95 in class 12 and 99.26 in class 10.

The Bengaluru region, which includes Karnataka, stands fourth in class 12 among the 17 regions, with a pass percentage of 95.95% after Vijayawada (99.6%), Thiruvananthapuram (99.32%), and Chennai (97.39%). It stands second in the class 10 results after Thiruvananthapuram and Vijayawada (both 99.79%).

A total of 21,664 students (out of the 21,745 who had registered) appeared for the class 12 examination. This included 11,712 boys and 9,952 girls from 304 schools across Karnataka. Girls outshone boys with a pass percentage of 96.9%, while the pass percentage of boys was 95.14.

For class 10, 93,017 students (out of the 93,148 who had registered) – 50,150 boys and 42,867 girls – appeared for the examination, which was conducted between February 15 and March 18. Here too, the pass percentage of girls (99.46) was higher than that of boys (98.43).

Class 12

My priority was always to study from the notes given by teachers and then textbooks. I would like to pursue BBA from Christ University.

Keisha Bajaj, 99%,
DPS Bangalore South, (Commerce)

I tailored my approach to each subject. I aim to pursue a degree in history and political science and become a history professor.

Hrithikaa Kiran Shetty, 99.25%,
DPS East, (Humanities)

I was preparing for competitive exams for law. Once they concluded, I shifted my focus towards the board exam. I want to pursue BA LLB.

Siya Saurabh, 99%,
DPS Bangalore South, (Science)

I solved a lot of sample papers and referred to a lot of study material. I would now like to pursue computer engineering from one of the IITs.

Vakhin S., 99%,
Narayana Group's Kasturinagar campus, (Science)

I was preparing for JEE and other competitive exams and that helped me with class 12 exam. I am trying to get into one of the IITs and pursue my engineering there.

Reyansh Devnani, 99%, Narayana Group's Sahakarnagar campus, (Science)

Daughter of mechanic, son of guard among 1,271 graduating from UAS-B

Bhuvaneshwari
BENGALURU

Spoorthi R., a student at the College of Agriculture, Mandya, and daughter of a two-wheeler mechanic and a homemaker, took up agriculture as per her parents' wishes. On Thursday, she will be graduating from Bsc (Honours) Agriculture course with as many as nine gold medals, during the 59th convocation of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore.

"I tried to get into the medical field, but wasn't selected. I chose to study agriculture for my father's happiness. Today, with my results, I feel great. And I am happy that I fulfilled my parents' dreams. I want to pursue an MSc and then a PhD in the same sector as a researcher," Ms. Spoorthi said.

A total of 1,271 students – 871 undergraduates, 311 postgraduates, and 89 doctoral candidates – will be receiving their degrees during the convocation ceremony which will be held on the GKVK campus.

Maarepalli Udaya Sindhu

Yakshith D.S.

A total of 1,271 students to receive their degrees during the convocation ceremony tomorrow

Among these students, 63 will receive 150 gold medals and award certificates across various courses. Girls have overtaken boys, as 49 of them will receive 123 medals while 14 boys will receive 27 medals. Deepthi T.L., a BSc (Hons) Agriculture student, has secured the highest number of awards, receiving 13 gold medals and four donor certificates.

Four gold medals

Maarepalli Udaya Sindhu, a PhD student from the College of Agriculture, GKVK, Bengaluru, has secured 95.3% and will be receiving four gold medals and certificates. She lost her father when she was in class 4, while her mother is a government employee in Telangana.

Ahead of her graduation, she has joined the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and is working as a Krishi Vignan Kendra (KVK) scientist in Lakshadweep.

"I am happy and grateful to my husband and cousin who helped me achieve this feat," said Ms. Sindhu.

Yakshith D.S., another student of Bsc (Honours) Agriculture, from the College of Agriculture, Chamarajanagar, has secured three gold medals and certificates. Although he had his interests in the medical sciences, Mr. Yakshith chose agricultural sciences due to his scores in the entrance exams. However, since he is also interested in the agricultural sector, after securing good results in his undegraduate programme, he nows wants to pursue an Msc and PhD.

His father works as a security guard at the Reserve Bank of India while his mother is a homemaker. He has also given his IFFCO Agriculture Graduate Trainee exams and is awaiting the results.

Mohammed Zubair files plaint about threats, leak of home address and phone number

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair has filed a complaint with the city police claiming to have received threats after the address of his home here was leaked on social media.

Mr. Zubair, in his complaint on Monday, said his personal information, including home address and mobile phone number, had been leaked. Unknown persons allegedly threatened to send pork to his home. "I am already facing threats to my life," Mr. Zubair said on his social media account.

Not the first time

"This isn't the first time. The same person in 2023 had sent pork to my address and shared the shipping address on Twitter. I have filed a complaint before @DCPEASTBCP. Trust that @CPBlr @DgpKarnataka takes this threat seriously at least this time. Last time when I filed a complaint, the FIR was closed after a few months," he posted.

Mr. Zubair has shared details of the X handles, including @Cyber_Huntss, that allegedly leaked his home address and mobile number. The X handles called for pork to be sent to his home.

Mr. Zubair alleged that this was an attempt to promote enmity between religious groups. He has sought police protection.

Many people extended support to Mr. Zubair on social media and demanded a thorough investigation into the matter.

From Page One

Pink Line deadline pushed to 2026

"The soil conditions include large granite and dolerite boulders. While granite is already extremely hard, dolerite is even more difficult to drill through," a senior official said.

One of the most important segments of the Pink Line has been the 2.2-km stretch between Shivajinagar and Vellara. The complexity of tunnelling in this stretch delayed the progress significantly, contributing to the repeated rescheduling of project timelines, according to the official.

In October 2024, BMRCL achieved a major milestone by completing tunnelling works for what is now the city's longest underground metro corridor. Although the underground section measures 14 km, the tunnelling work extended to 21 km owing to the twin-tunnel system.

For many Bengaluru residents, the Pink Line remains a long-promised solution to the city's worsening traffic woes. Commuters who regularly travel between the city's northern, southern zones, and Central Business District (CBD) area are growing impatient over the constant postponements.

"Every delay means another year stuck in traffic for two hours a day. I had hoped to be using the Pink Line by now. We need accountability, not just revised deadlines," said Nandita Rao, a resident of Bannerghatta Road whose workplace is on M.G. Road.

Ravi Chandrashekhar, a resident of Pottery Town, said, "I have to travel to Bannerghatta Road every day for work since my office is located there. Right now, I depend entirely on my bike. If the Pink Line becomes operational, it will make my life much easier. It feels like BMRCL keeps making promises only to break them later. The government needs to treat this with the urgency it deserves. The city is choking, and we're still waiting for the connectivity that was promised five years ago."

Trains for the line

Meanwhile, regarding the trains for this line, in August 2023, the Bengaluru-based public sector unit BEML Ltd. secured a contract to manufacture and maintain 318 metro coaches (53 trainsets) over 15 years. This included 96 coaches designated for the Pink Line, and 222 coaches for the Blue Line – which covers Phase 2A and 2B extensions.

Adding to the fleet, in March 2025, BMRCL awarded BEML Ltd. an additional order for seven more trainsets specifically for the Pink Line. BEML Ltd. has committed to delivering a prototype train by June 2025, a crucial step before full-scale deployment can begin.

Customs officials uncover wildlife racket; rescue nine venomous snakes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru rescued nine venomous snakes being smuggled from Bangkok in Thailand on Monday.

Based on a tip-off, the officials arrested Jagadisha Raman, 35, a mule, who picked up the luggage bag after arriving at the airport by Thai Airways and handed over the consignment to the receiver. The officials, by following the trial, nabbed both Jagadisha and his receiver at the exit point and recovered the bag. The bag contained nine live Wagler's pit vipers, one common spotted cuscus, and one live opossum concealed inside the cloth bags with tiny holes for breathing.

One of the smuggled snakes rescued by the Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Among them, Waglers's pit vipers are venomous and deadly and do not have antidotes in India," an official said.

Both Jagadisha and his receiver, a local businessman, were booked for endangering the safety of the passengers and crew. They were later remanded in judicial custody.

"The incident also brought to light the lack of security measures at the airport during a situation of national emergency. We are wondering how the accused managed to hoodwink the security checks in Thailand and Malaysia and brought the wildlife to Bengaluru," an official said.

The incident also highlights the lack of coordination between different agencies, as despite the increasing number of such smuggling cases reported at the airport, no strict preventive measures have been taken, the official added.

In January this year, taking a serious note on the increasing incidents of wildlife smuggling, senior officials of the BIAL had written to the MD and CEO of Bangkok Airport, Thailand. Officials have contacted their counterparts in Thailand to return the rescued wildlife with the court permission.

Mechanical engineer arrested for multiple house break-in cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kodigehalli police have arrested a 35-year-old mechanical engineer for allegedly being involved in as many as 91 cases of house break-in and theft.

The accused Srinivas, a resident of Andhra Pradesh, worked as technical crew in the Andhra cinema industry and was arrested for allegedly stealing a laptop to arrange money for his online gaming addiction in 2008.

After he came out on bail, he became a full-time burglar.

The accused had allegedly burgled two houses on a single day and returned to his home town to dispose off the stolen valuables. Based on CCTV camera footage, the police enlarged the image to match it with Srinivas' records available in crime database.

With his arrest, the police said they solved two house break-in thefts in Kodigehalli and recovered ₹9 lakh worth of valuables from him.

"The accused had a decent background, and his siblings are engineers working in the U.S. and Australia as techies," the police said.

Police inspector fined ₹50,000 for illegal detention of man

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Detaining a suspect on the charge of receiving stolen property without a record has proved costly for a city-based inspector, as the State human rights commission has found him guilty and directed him to pay a compensation of ₹50,000.

The incident dates back to March 2024 when the Bharatinagar police, while probing a mobile snatching case reported on January 13 at Nehrupuram, arrested the accused Syed Asif. The accused allegedly told the police that he had sold the phone to Nayeem Pasha following which the police detained him and allegedly recovered the phone and kept him in custody along with Asif on March 29.

The police personnel allegedly demanded ₹50,000 from the wife of Pasha when she went to the station to enquire about her husband. Unable to pay, she approached the SHRC with a complaint against the police for illegally detaining her husband. Based on the complaint, an SHRC team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Mohan S.Y. visited the station and conducted an inquiry with Pasha, police personnel, witnesses, and the inspector. The officials also verified CCTV camera footage to ascertain the allegations.

The probe revealed that the police personnel did not press any charge against Pasha even though he could have been arrested on the charge of receiving the stolen property, nor was produced before the court.

Based on the fact-finding team's report, the SHRC has recommended to the Chief Secretary to pay a compensation of ₹50,000 to Pasha for violating his rights and recover the compensation amount from the salary of the inspector. The commission also asked the government to submit the action-taken report.

Driver held for stealing ₹1.51 cr. in cash from his employer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vyalikaval police on Tuesday arrested a 45-year-old car driver of a chartered accountant for allegedly stealing ₹1.51 crore in cash from his employer and fleeing to his home town on May 6.

According to the police, Rajesh was working as a driver for the last five years and staying with his family at Vyalikaval. On May 6, his employer had collected the money from his clients for tax payment and had given it to Rajesh to keep it in the car.

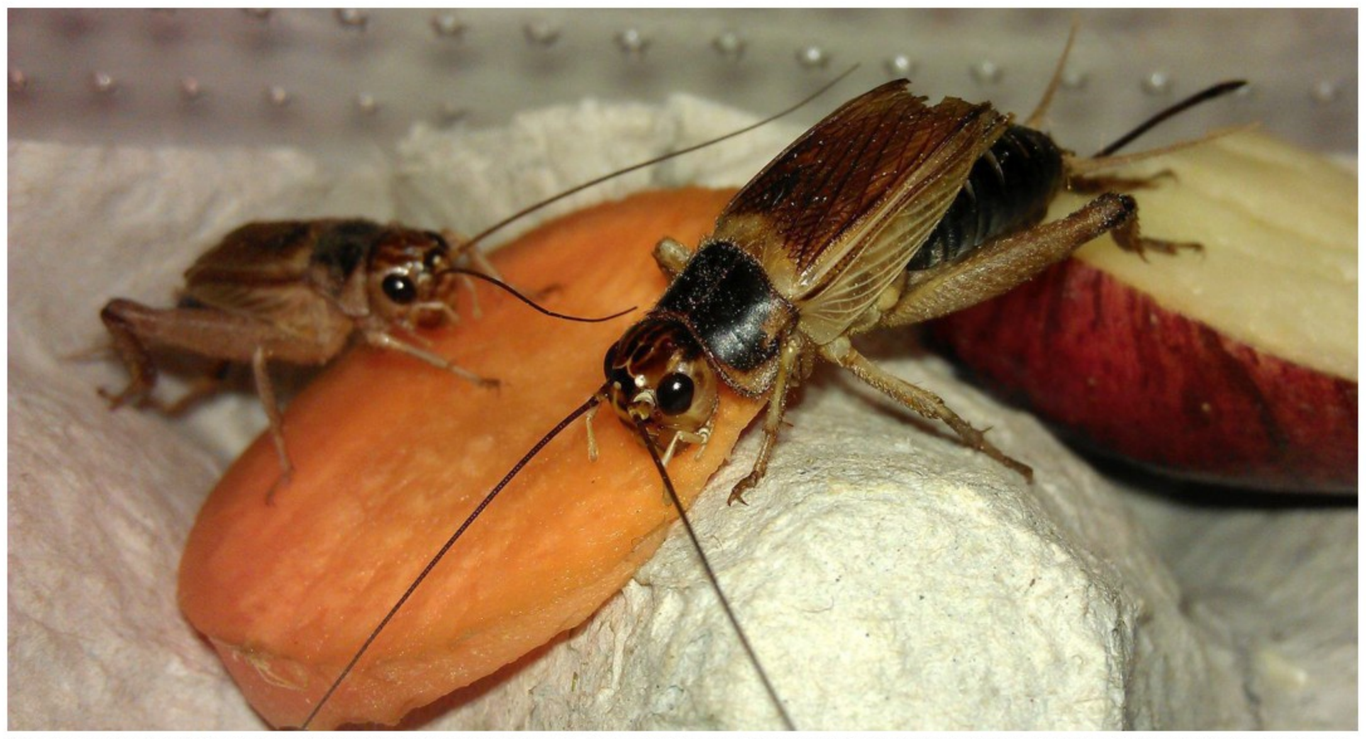
Instead, Rajesh allegedly escaped with the cash and kept it at home. He allegedly spent some of the money and even paid donations at a temple. Based on the complaint, the police tracked down Rajesh and recovered the remaining ₹1.48 crore from him.

In a similar case, the HAL police arrested a 35-year-old domestic help who had allegedly stolen valuables worth ₹12 lakh from her former employer's house at Basavapura. According to the police, the family was not happy with Varalakshmi's work and had sacked her. Upset by this, Varalakshmi, before moving out, accessed the duplicate keys of the house. She kept a watch on the house and realised that the family had gone to a temple. She allegedly gained entry into the house using the duplicate keys and stole the valuables. After returning, the family found the valuables missing and filed a complaint. The police found no forced entry into the house. Meanwhile, a child in the neighbouring house had seen Varalakshmi coming out of the house and informed her parents, who in turn tipped-off the victims. The police then picked up Varalakshmi from her house, and questioning allegedly led to the confession and recovery of the valuables.

Scientists have found a cricket evolving rapidly to beat a new threat

Pacific field crickets in Hawaii evolved quieter songs to evade invasive parasitoid flies introduced by climate-driven migrations; the flies, however, rapidly adapted their hearing to detect these new sounds; the escalating arms race highlights how climate change can force unpredictable evolutionary shifts in vulnerable ecosystems

Rupsy Khurana



Two domestic crickets feed on a carrot in this representative image. The populations of insects are falling in many parts of the world. Their extinction rates are estimated to be eight-times higher than those of birds, mammals or reptiles. SEAN WALLACE (CC BY-SA)

Climate change is reshaping the world – and perhaps nowhere more so than in the wild. As ecosystems change, species are forced to move to new locations in search of the resources they need to live. Unlike some human-made borders that are visible as fences and walls, the wild at large has numerous borders invisible to humans crisscrossing each other. When climate change causes an animal to migrate, it may cross one of these borders – and there new challenges await.

Some newcomers quietly adapt to their new environs. Others go rogue and become invasive, throwing the lives of native species into chaos. These invasions are becoming more common, which means more and more native species are being forced to make a choice: evolve to survive or perish.

A love song vanishes

On the Hawaiian islands, Pacific field crickets (*Teleogryllus oceanicus*) evolved – and how. To avoid being hunted by an invasive parasitoid fly called *Ormia ochracea*, they have started remixing the songs they've been using to find mates. But according to a study published recently in *Current Biology*, these escape plans might not be foolproof, at least not yet.

About 30 years ago, as *O. ochracea* flies flew into Hawaii from tropical America, the sound of Pacific field crickets' love songs vanished from the islands. Using their acute sense of hearing, the flies were able to zero in on male crickets as they sang and lay their eggs inside the crickets' bodies. When the larvae hatched, they fed on the nutrients around them and eventually burrowed out, killing the crickets.

"About 20 years ago, we discovered a population on Kauai [in Hawaii] that had gone completely silent because a mutation on their wing erased the sound-producing structures in these crickets," University of Denver professor Robin Tinghitella said. "Males still rubbed their wings together, but no sound came out. It was a pretty wild discovery. The mutation swept through the island because it protected crickets from flies."

Recently, however, Tinghitella's group discovered populations of Pacific field crickets that still sang – but the music was somewhat different: it contained some additional subdued purrs and rattles. It differed in both frequency and amplitude from the original music. The researchers found that it was still loud enough to attract females but quiet enough to evade *O. ochracea* flies.

To Tinghitella, the crickets' new adaptation signalled a "rapid pace of evolutionary change."

Step by step? No, thanks

"This got us wondering: could the flies be evolving to keep up?" she continued. "This kicked off a series of lab and field experiments to see if the neural and behavioural responses of flies were responding to changes in cricket songs."

To test if the flies were evolving in sync with their prey, the researchers compared the sensitivity of Hawaiian flies to certain sounds and frequencies with that of lab-maintained native flies from Florida. The ancestral Floridian flies were most sensitive to sounds around 4-6 kHz, which is also the frequency most field crickets call at. On the other hand, the researchers found, the *O. ochracea* flies had broadened their hearing range, tuning into sounds from 6 to 20 kHz.

Next, they placed a live fly on a spherical treadmill with speakers on either side. When they played synthetic pre-recorded cricket songs, the Hawaiian flies were more responsive to the purrs and rattles of Pacific field crickets than their ancestral counterparts.

Despite the crickets' efforts to stay under the radar, the flies could still find them.

"What we are seeing isn't a classic incremental step-by-step co-evolution, where the cricket changes a little bit in one direction and then the fly carefully tracks that, and so on," said Tinghitella.

Ancestral Floridian flies were most sensitive to sounds around 4-6 kHz, which is the frequency most crickets call at. On the other hand, the *O. ochracea* flies had broadened their hearing range, tuning into sounds from 6 to 20 kHz

"Instead, the flies have become more responsive to a broad range of sounds that might allow them to track a variety of changes in cricket song."

When the male crickets make new sounds, they aren't changing the way they interact with flies alone. Female crickets have also become less picky in this time about male songs. "If the females had still preferred only the traditional song, males with the mutations [that cause purrs and rattles] would not have succeeded. They would have gone locally extinct," Tinghitella said.

A new challenge

How much and how quickly a species can evolve depends on its resilience, generation time, the plasticity of its traits, and ecological pressure. For example, organisms with short generation times, like insects, reproduce rapidly, so they have more chances to evolve, potentially allowing them to respond faster to new threats. Likewise, more long-lived species may be more vulnerable. Even beyond these considerations, unexpected and synergistic pressures may still destabilise either type of species, Viraj Torsekar, an ecologist at GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, said.

The populations of insects are falling in many parts of the world. Their extinction rates are estimated to be eight-times higher than those of birds, mammals, or reptiles. Their vulnerability means even if conditions become more unfavourable than usual for a short period – e.g., a year with bad weather – populations are more liable to collapse than longer lived organisms that can better face a fluctuating threat, Cleo Bertelsmeier, professor in the department of ecology and evolution at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, said.

As global warming, extreme weather, and biological invasions intensify, predicting how species with varying ecological needs will respond to compounding pressures is becoming increasingly challenging. Many researchers are looking at the genomic architecture of wild insect species to predict their ability to adapt.

According to Tinghitella, rapid evolution could explain why some invaders do so well or why some species manage to cope. To predict how these interactions are going to play out in the long-term, understanding how evolution happens in these situations is key.

(Rupsy Khurana is Science Communication and Outreach Lead at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru. khurana.rupsy@gmail.com)

THE GIST

After *O. ochracea* flies arrived, the love songs of Pacific field crickets vanished. The flies were able to zero in on male crickets and lay their eggs inside their bodies. When the larvae hatched, they burrowed out, killing the crickets

Crickets adapted by changing the song. Female crickets also became less picky by accepting males with the mutations that allowed them to change their tune; without this adaptation, they would have gone extinct

Rapid evolution could explain why some invaders do so well or why some species manage to cope. To predict how these interactions are going to play out in the long term, understanding how evolution happens in these situations is key

BIG SHOT

A drone view shows the thunderous pororoca tidal bore wave on the Mearim River in the Amazon jungle, near the northern Brazilian city of Arari, on April 30. A tidal bore is created when an incoming tide is funnelled into a narrow river channel, forcing it to increase its height and speed. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Gold, as usual at great cost

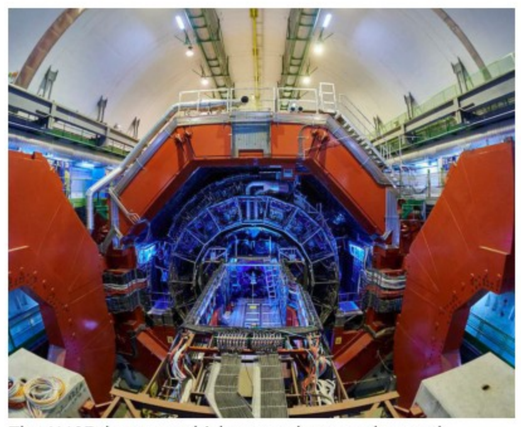
Q: Is it possible to turn lead into gold?

A: In India and other parts of the world, some ancient natural philosophers practised an enterprise called alchemy. It was in some ways an early form of chemistry, but guided by less-than-scientific ideas of the time. One form of alchemy was concerned with converting base metals like lead into gold. We know today that doing this requires us to change the composition of the nucleus of the lead atom, which is not easy.

In a new study, scientists working with the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Europe have reported turning lead atoms into gold atoms for a fraction of a second.

The LHC is famous for accelerating protons to high energies and smashing billions of them head on. But in the study, the researchers energised heavy lead nuclei and had them pass close to each other, without colliding, giving rise to so-called ultra-peripheral collisions. Even though the nuclei don't physically touch, they interact via their powerful electromagnetic fields, which caused some of the nuclei to break up. The team found that when a lead nucleus emitted protons, it essentially became a gold nucleus.

Also, current theoretical models could only roughly predict these emissions: the researchers said this was because their models tended to underestimate how often one or two protons were emitted. In other words, scientists have room to improve their understanding of how these electromagnetic breakups work.



The ALICE detector, which researchers used to track near-miss collisions between lead nuclei in the LHC. CERN

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IMD forecasts heavy rain across Karnataka today

Bengaluru city and HAL stations record 30.2 mm and 22.8 mm rainfall, respectively

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several parts of the State are likely to receive rainfall over the next few days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall accompanied with thunder showers on Wednesday in some parts of coastal, north-interior, and south-interior Karnataka.

According to the IMD forecast, heavy rain and thunder showers are likely to occur at one or two places in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada.

Most places in Bengaluru (Rural), Bengaluru (Urban), Chickballapur, Chikkamagaluru, Davangere, Kodagu, Kolar, Mandya, Mysuru, Ramanagara, Shivamogga, and Vijayanagara districts will receive light to moderate rain, and thunder showers with gusty winds (50 to 60 kmph).

Vehicles on the flooded Raj Bhavan Road in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The IMD has forecast light to moderate rain in coastal, north-interior and south interior Karnataka from May 15 to 19.

"Partly cloudy sky becoming generally cloudy in the evening. Moderate rain and thunder showers accompanied with gusty wind (wind speed 40-50) kmph likely. Maximum and minimum temperature are very likely to be around 33°C and 21°C respectively," states the forecast for Bengaluru city and the neighbourhood.

On Tuesday, heavy showers lashed Bengaluru as the Bengaluru city and HAL stations recorded 30.2 mm and 22.8 mm rainfall, respectively, till 5.30 p.m.

Heavy winds and rain in Bengaluru on Monday caused significant disruption across several city zones, resulting in a high number of trees and branches falling. According to data released by the BBMP for a period between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., a total of 27 tree-fall complaints and 94 branch fall complaints were received from across eight zones.

The worst-hit zone was East Bengaluru, which reported four fallen trees and 32 fallen branches.

South Bengaluru had seven tree and 16 branch complaints, while Bommanahalli registered six tree and 17 branch complaints. Mahadevapura and R.R. Nagar too saw a moderate number of issues. Zones like Dasarahalli reported no incidents, highlighting the uneven distribution of the rain's impact.

NPKL forum members walk out during BDA meeting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Situation worsened after BDA Commissioner allegedly declared that only 'original allottees' of sites will be permitted to voice grievances

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) Open-Forum members staged a walkout from a crucial meeting with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on Monday, citing the BDA Commissioner's "obstinate and exclusionary conduct".

The meeting, convened at the directive of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority-Karnataka (RERA-K) following long-pending grievances, was expected to provide a much-needed platform for addressing the ongoing infrastructure issues affecting the layout. Instead, it descended into what participants described as a "farcical exercise".

Suryakiran A.S., member of the NPKL forum, said the meeting lasted barely 20 minutes, most of which was dominated by the Commissioner's opening remarks.

"Despite RERA-K's clear intent for an inclusive dialogue, the Commissioner allowed no opportunity for participants to speak, except to question the qualifications of a forum representative who raised concerns about the quality of asphalting work, asking dismissively if they were a civil engineer," a member said.

According to the members, the situation further deteriorated when the Commissioner allegedly declared that only "original allottees" of BDA sites would be permitted to voice grievances. Numerous attendees, who were either legal heirs or immediate family members of the original allottees, were effectively silenced. The forum noted that many original allottees are deceased, elderly, or unable to participate – leaving dependents to shoulder the fight for basic civic rights, Mr. Suryakiran said.

"The Commissioner's attempt to limit representation is a violation of the spirit of RERA and a grave injustice to families who have borne the brunt of the BDA's neglect," said another representative of the forum.

The NPKL Open-Forum members exited the meeting in protest.

"The RERA directive was clear – ensure inclusive dialogue and redressal. Today's conduct is a betrayal of that mandate," the forum said in a statement. "We appeal to the Deputy Chief Minister and the Chairman of BDA to intervene immediately and uphold the rights of all affected allottees," Mr. Suryakiran said.

'No authorisation'

Reacting to the incident, BDA Commissioner N. Jayaram, said, "When some members spoke on irrelevant topics, I asked if they are allottees. Mr. Suryakiran said he arrived here to communicate on behalf of the allottees. But they did not have any authorisation from the allottees to attend the meeting. After pointing this out, he and others walked out."

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, MAY. 14	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 20:10	SET 06:47
THURSDAY, MAY. 15	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:38
RISE 21:04	SET 07:37
FRIDAY, MAY. 16	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:38
RISE 21:57	SET 08:30

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	32	21

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm. Chances of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Intense lobbying by MLAs, financial constraints may force govt. to limit GBA to 709 sq. km

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Intense lobbying by legislators and economic constraints may force the State government to limit the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area to the jurisdiction of the currently functional Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The Urban Development Department (UDD) will notify the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act (GBGA) 2024 on Thursday with the area of the GBA fixed to 709 sq. km. The operational area of the current civic body is also the same. After the notification, the BBMP, operating under the BBMP Act 2021, will cease to exist and the new corporation on the same nomenclature will come into existence. The State will appoint an Administrator to oversee the splitting of the new cooperation likely into three or five corporations.

In March, when the GBG Bill was passed in both the houses and sent to the Governor, it was planned to extend the area of the GBA. The government envisioned to include at least 25 booming urban villages on the outskirts of the city. However, now the State has changed its stance.

A former councillor who is in the know about the transition told *The Hindu* that as soon as the State informed about expansion of the BBMP area, MLAs for Devanahalli, Nelamangala, Ramanagara, Mahadevapura, and other peripheral areas began lobbying to annex some of the areas into the GBA.

"This has put a lot of pressure on the Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Mr. Shivakumar thinks it would be hard to accommodate every demand of the MLAs and for now maintaining a similar BBMP would come to his rescue. It has also been informed to the MLAs that after some time the expansion would be carried out," said the former councillor.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the other hand thinks expansion is financially not viable as the State is reeling under economic stress. In the near future, the CM may agree to the expansion," he added

An expert who is also a stakeholder in the BBMP restructuring, confirming the same, said, "The present restructuring will happen out of political compulsion and not out of rationale. But this is a temporary as expansion is bound to happen sometime later."

Under the Act, the State has the option to split the BBMP up to seven corporations and this provides ample scope for the government to expand the area, the expert added.

Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology
Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bengaluru - 560 012.
No.KSCST/Recruitment/03/2025-26/57 Date: 13-05-2025

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KSCST websites: **https://www.kscst.org.in/ & https://kscst.karnataka.gov.in/**

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

White South Africans admitted as refugees into the U.S.

59 The Trump administration has allowed entry for the Afrikaners citing discrimination and violence in their home country, a claim that South Africa denies. The decision, which contrasts with strict limits on other refugee groups, drew sharp criticism from advocates. AP

Spurious liquor consumption leads to deaths in Punjab

21 Subsequent to the deaths, which occurred in Majitha, Amritsar, the DSP and SHO of the area were suspended for negligence. Investigations revealed that methanol was used in place of ethanol in this illicit production. The police stated that the victims were daily wage workers. PTI

The U.S. consumer price index in the month of April

2.3 in per cent. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) dipped from 2.4% in March, marking the smallest 12-month increase since February 2021. Monthly inflation rose 0.2%, slightly under expectations, with over half the increase driven by a 0.3% rise in shelter costs. AFP

Number of bunkers set up along the India-Pakistan border

9,500 Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo reached out to shelling-affected people along the Line of Control in Rajouri district and said that more bunkers would be constructed. Mr. Dulloo said that some people have been injured. PTI

Andhra CM's target for revenue-generating departments

1.34 in ₹ lakh crore. The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister directed all revenue-generating departments to explore possibilities of raising the State's income, setting a target of over ₹1.34 lakh crore, a 29% increase from last fiscal. PTI

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The right to repair movement in India

What is the Repairability Index? What does 'planned obsolescence' with respect to electronics mean? How different is the right to repair movement in the U.S. as compared to India? How are consumer advocates and electronic manufacturers responding to the Index?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) last week announced that a report for a "Framework on Repairability Index (RI) in Mobile and Electronic Sector" had been submitted to the government. Under the RI, consumer electronics and electronic appliances would be assigned a score depending on how easy they are to repair by evaluating products under criteria like availability of spare parts, cost of repair, software updates, and availability of information.

Why a focus on repairing products?

The home appliance industry is full of examples of products like washing machines and air conditioners which if purchased several years ago work for a long time without any problems, while the newer ones face frequent failures. While "planned obsolescence" – selling consumers less durable products intentionally so that they come back to buy a newer model – is often cited as a reason for this, there is often a simpler reason: companies are cutting corners on raw materials and manufacturing, under the strain of increasing metal costs and price competition.

Attero Recycling CEO Nitin Gupta said in an interaction with *The Hindu* in 2023 that the "amount of metal content on [appliance] units" had come down, and that shortages in materials like copper have led to leaner engineering choices. India is a net importer of metals, Mr. Gupta said, increasing pressures to maintain existing electronic products.

These developments have made repair a much bigger issue in many electronics, and a looming factor for consumers to consider when purchasing a product. This isn't a uniquely Indian problem. U.S. lawmaker Marie Gluesenkamp Perez recently described a draft law she had introduced requiring appliance makers to display average annual maintenance and repair costs alongside the price of a product, and said that longer-lasting older appliances (and potentially newer ones built to last) like washing machines were a form of "durable wealth" as they last longer. Prolonging the life of an appliance ties into other priorities, like promoting e-waste recycling (part of what Indian officials have described as a "circular economy," where parts and metals go back into a value chain, a long-held but inadequately achieved aim), and regulating the demand for "virgin" metals that have been freshly mined.

GETTY IMAGES

The main impetus, however, is likely the end-consumer benefit of having longer-lasting products. Since the processing power of smartphones and computers in particular have not grown as much in recent years as in the 2010s, ecological and economic imperatives align on making sure that consumers have products that last, or at least products that can be repaired cheaply and quickly.

What is the right to repair?

Consumer groups around the world have been fighting for the right to repair, a broad umbrella term referring to greater flexibility for a consumer in terms of how they can get their products repaired. In India, the DoCA has launched a right to repair portal, which lists the authorised service centres of various manufacturers and repair literature published by them.

This is a non-confrontational interpretation of the right to repair. In the U.S., consumer groups have rallied around the term to resist companies that seek to monopolise the repair of their products, such as by restricting access to spare parts, and penalising customers who choose third party repair services. Protections for such customers have emerged from the American right to repair movement, but the Indian interpretation aligns closely with equipment manufacturers' insistence that the availability of authorised service channels are sufficient.

With the RI framework, the government indicated that it would work to pursue such scoring "without causing any impediment to the industry with regard to innovation and ease of doing business". Electronics makers have strenuously fought some right to repair legislations in the U.S., cautious of the business impact of losing repair revenue, which has emerged as a key revenue stream in some sectors. McDonald's ice cream machines are a commonly cited example, as they break down frequently and franchisees have only been permitted to have them repaired by technicians of the Taylor Company, which makes the machines.

The committee that drafted the RI framework was dominated in membership by industry groups and electronics manufacturers. However, that does not mean that the deliberations and the report's outcome will completely favour them, like the right-to-repair portal did. Pushpa Girimaji, a consumer rights advocate and lawyer who has closely tracked the intricacies of the right to repair, was part of the committee; Ms. Girimaji recently described a manufacturer's refusal to offer repair on an aging lift as "highly exploitative and a violation of the consumers' right to choice," and hit many of the key notes that consumer advocates elsewhere have advocated for, including accommodation of third party repair services.

THE GIST

- Under the Repairability Index, consumer electronics and electronic appliances would be assigned a score depending on how easy they are to repair.
- With the RI framework, the government indicated that it would work to pursue such scoring "without causing any impediment to the industry with regard to innovation and ease of doing business".
- The committee that drafted the RI framework was dominated in membership by industry groups and electronics manufacturers. However, that does not mean that the deliberations and the report's outcome will completely favour them

What has been decided in the Pollachi sexual assault case?

How were the accused identified by the Pollachi police and CBI? Why did the case gain political notoriety?

Wilson Thomas

The story so far:

Six years ago, nine men from Pollachi, Coimbatore, were arrested for blackmailing, sexually assaulting, and videographing young girls and women between 2016 and 2018. The nine men, who have remained behind bars since their arrest, have been prosecuted for multiple offences, including criminal conspiracy, sexual harassment, rape, gang rape, and repeated rape of the same woman. On May 13, the Mahila Court in Coimbatore found all nine accused guilty and sentenced them to life imprisonment. The court also ordered the Tamil Nadu government to pay a total compensation of ₹85 lakh to seven out of the eight survivors of sexual assault.

What is the case?

On February 24, 2019, a college girl lodged a complaint with the Pollachi East police, alleging sexual abuse by four men in a moving car near Pollachi 12 days ago. The 19-year-old was the first survivor to speak up against the group of youngsters, who had allegedly been luring women and sexually assaulting them since 2016. The perpetrators filmed these sexual acts, which they used for further exploitation.

The police took up the investigation and examined the mobile phones and laptops of the accused. The gadgets contained numerous video clips of different women, who had been sexually assaulted at various locations by the accused. Most of these crimes had taken place at a house of one of the accused, K. Thirunavukkarasu, at Chinnappapalayam near Pollachi, around 50 km from Coimbatore city. Sensing the gravity of the case, on March 12, 2019, the State government directed the Crime Branch-CID to launch an investigation. Eventually, amid outrage, the then Edappadi K. Palaniswami government transferred the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the agency took over the probe on April 25, 2019.

What did the agency find?

The central agency arraigned N. Sabarirajan also known as Rishwanth (32), K. Thirunavukkarasu (34), M. Sathish (33), T. Vasanthakumar (30), R. Mani, also known as Manivannan (32), P. Babu (33), T. Haronimus Paul (32), K. Arulanantham (39), and M. Arunkumar as the accused in the case. It found that Sabarirajan was the key perpetrator who lured the girls and women, including the complainant. The sexual assault of the first complainant, aged 19, took place on February 12, 2019, in a car on Dharapuram Road. They filmed the act and robbed her of a gold chain. The girl informed her family only after the accused demanded sexual favours from her by threatening to leak the video. Numerous videos of sexual assault were found on the laptop of Sabarirajan and the mobile phone of Thirunavukkarasu. Using these, the police and the CBI identified the other accused and survivors. The case also stirred up a political controversy as Arulanantham had been the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) Pollachi town students' wing secretary. He was expelled from the party after his arrest.

Who were the survivors?

Investigations revealed the accused targeted young girls and women from middle class and lower socio-economic backgrounds. Though the accused are suspected to have sexually exploited numerous women, only eight of them testified. The investigation faced backlash when the then Coimbatore District Superintendent of Police R. Pandiarajan revealed the name of the complainant. It is believed some survivors chose to stay away from the investigation fearing their identities would be made public.

How was the trial conducted?

A special court room facility was created at the Combined Court Complex in Coimbatore for the trial to protect the identities of the survivors. A chamber made of one-way glass prevented others from seeing the survivors during the trial. They were brought to court with extreme care, while the accused were produced through videoconferencing.

THE GIST

- Six years ago, nine men from Pollachi, Coimbatore, were arrested for blackmailing, sexually assaulting, and videographing young girls and women between 2016 and 2018.
- On February 24, 2019, a college girl lodged a complaint with the Pollachi East police, alleging sexual abuse by four men in a moving car near Pollachi 12 days ago.
- Investigations revealed the accused targeted young girls and women from middle class and lower socio-economic backgrounds. Though the accused are suspected to have sexually exploited numerous women, only eight of them testified.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANIGANDA M S/o Mahesh Residing at No.05, 11th Cross, Ashok Nagar, Bangalore-560 050 have changed my name to Manikanta M vide affidavit dated 05/05/2025.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as N Ashok Alias Ashok Nethi S/O Prasad Nethi residing at 22/117, 2nd Main Kaveri Nagar, Kathriguppe, Banashankari 3rd stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ashok Nethi For All Future Purposes

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HG:
DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-BANGALORE.(DRT I)
TELEPHONE HOUSE, FOURTH FLOOR, RAJ BHAVAN ROAD, BANGALORE - 560001
Case.No. O.A/ 639 /2022

Between :
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, (erstwhile United Bank of India), CIRCLE SASTRA BANGALORE EAST, BANGALORE ... APPLICANT
/VS/
M/s MATHAJI ENTERPRISES AND ANOTHER ... DEFENDANTS
(Prop : Sri. Ramesh Chandra)
BETWEEN :
1. Punjab National Bank Erstwhile
(erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce)
A body Corporate constituted under The Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer of Undertaking) No. 40 of 1970, Having its Corporate Office at Plot No-4, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 And Carrying business through its branches at various place including Circle SASTRA Bangalore east, Raheja Towers First Floor, 26-27, M.G.Road, Bangalore-560001
PAN.No.AAACP0165G
RTGS Inward A/c No. 1277103171160
IFSC No. Punb0127710
Represented by its Chief Manager
Sri. V. S. Sundara raman
Aged about 58 years, **APPLICANT**
AND :
M/s. MATHAJI ENTERPRISES AND ANOTHER **DEFENDENT**
To :

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993.

TO:
1. M/s Mathaji Enterprises,
Prop : Sri. Ramesh Chandra, Aged about 30 years, Son of Sri. Bhunda Ram,
No.1878, BEML Main Road, New Thippasandra, HAL 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560075
PAN.No. ASBPC0385R
Mob : 8147936770
2. Sri. Durgaram Chaudary, Aged about 38 years, Son of Sri. Daya ramji
Prop: of M/s Bhavani Hardware & Electricals, Shop No.1 Ground Floor, 211, 3rd A Main, Near Shani Mahatma Temple, Bengaluru - 560093
PAN.No.AKKPD2360A
Mob : 9449333232

Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of debts due to Banks and recovery of a sum of **Rs. 40,40,227- 29(Rupees Forty Lakhs Forty thousand Two hundred twenty Seven and paise Twenty nine only)** together with Current and For other relief's. The above mentioned defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before the tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of the defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on day of 12.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M. as to why relief prayed for should not be granted. Take Notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this tribunal on this the 14th day of March 2025

SEAL

Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal I
Bangalore-560001

FORM NO. RSC – 4
[Pursuant to Rule 3(3)]
Before the National Company Law Tribunal Bench at Bengaluru
Company Application No 54 of 2025

Right Alpha Capital Pvt Ltd ...Applicant

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Notice may be taken that an application was presented to the Tribunal at Bengaluru Bench, on the 10th day of March 2025 for confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above company from 'Rs.25,38,25,360/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Crore Thirty-Eight Lakhs Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Only) to 'Rs.5,38,25,360/- (Rupees Five Crore Thirty-Eight Lakhs Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Only)

The notices to individual creditors have been issued. The list of creditors prepared on the 24th day of February 2025 by the company is available at the registered office of the company for inspection on all working days during **11 AM to 4 PM between 14th May 2025 to 14th August 2025.**

If any creditor of the company has any objection to the application or the details in the list of creditors, the same may be sent (along with supporting documents) and details about his name and address and the name and address of his Authorised Representative, if any, to the undersigned at **compliance@rightalphacapital.com** and at the registered office of the company situated at Galaxy, Unit Electra Block, 1st Floor, Wing A Exora Business Park Prestige Tech Park II Bellandur, Marathahalli Colony Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560037 within three months of date of this notice.

If no objection is received within the time stated above, entries in the list of creditors will, in all the proceedings under the above petition to reduce the share capital of the company, be treated as correct.

It may also be noted that a hearing has been fixed for Friday, 27/06/2025 on which the Tribunal shall hear the application. In case any creditor intends to attend the hearing he should make a request along with his objections, if any.

Sd/-
Thirupal Gorige
Practicing Company Secretary
Authorised Representative for the company

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1 KARNATAKA BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding Rajbhavan Road Bangalore - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
DEMAND NOTICE
Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.
RC No. 84/2024 IN OA No. 2120/2015
KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED V/s SMT. SHOBHARANI

In the matter of (CH 1) Karnataka Bank Limited, Yelahanka New Town Branch, Bengaluru **... Applicant Bank/Certificate Holder**
Vs
(CD 1) Smt .Shobharani W/o. Sri Mahadeva Kumar C., Propritrix of M/s Mandara Enterprises, Near Anjaneya Temple, Chikkabommasandra, GKK Post, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 065.
Also at : Smt .Shobharani W/o. Sri Mahdeva Kumar C., Propritrix of M/s Mandara Enterprises, Office No. 17, Sanjeevappa Road, 2nd Main Roadm Chikkabommasandra, GKVK Post, Bengaluru - 560 065.
... Defendants/Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-1) in **OA /2120/2015** an amount of **Rs.1125896.50** (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty Five Thousands Eight Hundred Ninety Six and Paise Fifty Only) along cost and future interest @12.25 % p.a. Compound interest monthly w.e.f. 09.11.2015 till realization and costs of Rs.14760.00 (Rupees Fourteen Thousands Seven Hundred and Sixty Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited).

CD Name	Int. Type/ mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Libility Type	RC Amount (Rs.)
(CD 1): Smt. Shobharani	Compound Interest (Monthly)	12.25% p.a.	09.11.2015	24.04.2023	Fully	1125896.50

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. **3.**You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4.** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. **5.** In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **25.04.2024.**

Sd/- (P H. Hemanth Kumar, IRS) Recovery Officer-2,
Debts Recovery Tribunal -1, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **MR.SUNIL CHARLES FERNANDES S/o.Late.Sebastian Fernandes** is intending to purchase the schedule property from **M/S. EL BETHEL MINISTRIES [a religious charitable Trust]** Rep by Managing Trustee M**rs.Sandra Salome Escottee;** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Flat No.2 in the Ground Floor having a Super Built up area 1250 Square Feet with One Car Parking in the apartment know as "HENNUR PLAZA" along with 666.66 Square Feet of undivided interest, built on the property bearing site Nos.59,60,61 and western portion of Site No.62, in House List Katha No.297, Situated at Amani Byrathy Khane village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Bangalore and bounded on the :
East by : Eastern Portion of Site No.62, West by : Site No.58, North by : 25 Feet wide Road, South by : Private property

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby stated that my client **Sri. M. G.Venkatesh** had purchased the land bearing No. 252-259, (Old No. 146/1623) measuring E-W 53 feet N-S 60 feet in all measuring 3180 sq ft situated at **17th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560 055**. While renovation the original sale deed dated 28-03-1994, registered on 02-08-1994, Document No. 3800/1993-94, Book-I, Vol No. 4035, Pages 136-146 in the office of the sub registrar Gandhinagar has been misplace/lost. Despite searching for it he could not locate it. If anyone finds it, kindly contact +91 9845009944 within **15 days** from the date of issuance of this ad.

Ranjith Gotur, Advocate,
No. 461, B/w 6th Cross, Sampige Road,
Malleshwaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
+91 8197215170
email : ranjith.gotur@gmail.com

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. ECN-TRD-02-2025
Dated : 06-05-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Survey for Electrification of Bengaluru-Dharmavaram (2x25kv upgradation), Bengaluru-Jolarpettai (2x25kv upgradation), Ballari-Chikjajur (DL), Hosapete-Ballari (QL) and Swamihalli-Rayadurg new line	Rs. 1,07,90,361.92

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 28-05-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution (Construction) Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/104/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Advertisement and Miscellaneous contracts by Bengaluru Division
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders for E-Auctions on the following Dates:
1. Catering & MPS stalls : **21-05-2025 22-05-2025 & 23-05-2025.**
2. Parking & Pay and Use : **14-05-2025, 15-05-2025, 21-05-2025, 22-05-2025, 23-05-2025 & 26-05-2025.**
3. Parcels: **22-05-2025, 23-05-2025, 26-05-2025 & 27-05-2025**
4. Advertising, ATM & Misc : **21-05-2025, 22-05-2025, 26-05-2025, 27-05-2025, 28-05-2025, 29-05-2025 & 30-05-2025**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/107/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Catalogue No. COMML-PLOT-SXB-25
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites bidders fulfilling the requisite eligibility criteria as stipulated in the afore mentioned auction catalogue, to participate in the e-Tender for the under mentioned service.

Name of the work with its location
Leasing of Commercial Plot on Railway land for an area 22,754 Sqm. available at offside Rd-1 at Goods yard at Sambre (SXB) Railway Station for a period of 01 year for stacking of Cargo.

E-Tender on 06-06-2025 at 16:00 Hrs.
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in (E-Tender Portal)
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/108/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Hubballi**
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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-Tender Notice

DRM (S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms / Contractors for the following works: **Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-02, Date: 09.05.2025. Name of work with its locality**: SUR-WD: Signaling work for supply of equipment, trenching, cable laying & termination of cables etc. in connection with CTR(P) - 14.279 Tkm & TRR (P) 7.305 Tkm and TSR(P) 39.25 Tkm (2025-26) works in Solapur-Wadi section of Solapur Division. **Tender No.: SUR-N-T-2025-26-02. Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs.1,18,91,546.56. **Cost of the tender form**: Nil. **Earnest money to be deposited**: Rs. 2,09,500. **Completion period of the work**: 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender**: 02.06.2025 after 15:30 Hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum / amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in**. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Divisional Railway Manager, S&T Branch
DE/Sur-50 Central Railway, Solapur
अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-Tender Notice

DRM (S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms / Contractors for the following works: **Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-01, Date: 09.05.2025. Name of work with its locality**: DD-WD: Signaling work for supply of equipment, trenching, cable laying & termination of cables etc. in connection with CTR(S/P) - 0.999 Tkm & TRR (S) 18.165 Tkm and TRR(P) 54.177 Tkm (2025-26) works in Daund-Wadi section of Solapur Division. **Tender No.: SUR-N-T-2025-26-01. Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs.1,34,15,278.57. **Cost of the tender form**: Nil. **Earnest money to be deposited**: Rs. 2,17,100. **Completion period of the work**: 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender**: 02.06.2025 after 15:30 Hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum / amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in**. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Divisional Railway Manager, S&T Branch
DE/Sur-49 Central Railway, Solapur
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Ph.: 9152940068,079-25462740,079-25451924, Email: dbmanw@bankofbaroda.com

SALE NOTICE 15 DAYS) FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
"APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accountis. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/ Guarantor/s/ Secured Asset/s/ Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Name & address of Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/ s	Detailed description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Reserve Price, EMD Amount and Bid Increase Amount	Dues. As per Demand notice (Less Recovery made after issuance of 13(2) demand notice) Plus i interest there on
1	**Mis Unique Intertrade Private Limited** Survey no.77, Church Road, Kchanna Sandra, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka-560043. **2. Mrs. Reeena Pankaj Surana, 3. Pankaj Surana, Both Residing:** G2 block 6, Ganga Chelston, Silver Spring Road, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560038. **4. Pankaj J Bothra, 5. Meera Jain, Both Residing:** A 104 A J Residency, Velayutham Road, BiH AJ Stadium, Sivakashi, Virudhunagar, Tamilnadu-623123. **6. Anil C. Bothra, 7. Urmila Bothra, Both Residing:** D 4, Vijay Tower, Opp. Abad Dairy, Kankria Road, Maninagar, Ahmedabad-380008.	**(1)** Flat No. D/4, 4th Floor, Vijay Tower, Near Kankaria Lake, Besides Hill Park Society, Kankaria Road, Maninagar, Ahmedabad Area of flat-142.14 sq mtr and carpet area 87.53 sq meter, approx stands record in the name of Mrs Urmila Chandmal Bothra Boundries: East: Flat No.D/3, West Building Margin, North: building Margin, South: Passage And Flat No D/01. **CERSAI ID: 400004473185**	**Reserve Price: Rs. 68,89,050/-** **EMD: 6,88,905/-** **Bid inc.: 25,000/-**	**Rs. 3,68,26,337.17 Lacs + Unapplied Interest from 01.09.2024 + Other Legal Charges & Expenses.**
		(2) Flat No. 2, Ground Floor, GM elegency Apartment Bearing Site No. 34, 35 and 36, CMC Katha No. 5562,5563,5564, Situated At Halagevaderahally Village, 3rd Main Road, off Kenchenahalli Road, near State Bank Of India, BEML layout, RR Nagar Branch, kengeri hobli, Bangalore-560098 Boudries: East: deccan Arcade Apartment/private Property, West: Public Road, North: public Road, South : Private Property No 37. **CERSAL ID: 400011407347**	**Reserve Price: Rs.1,09,35,000/-** **EMD: 10,93,500/-** **Bid inc.: 25,000/-**	

E-Auction Date: 05.06.2025 and E-Auction Time: 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM (unlimited extension of 10 minutes) Property inspection Date: 03.06.2025 Time : 11.00 Am to 2.00 PM (BY TAKING PRIOR APPOINTMENT) Status of Possession: Symbolic

a. Property is in Symbolic Possession and Bidder is purchasing the property in symbolic possession at his own risk & responsibility.
b. Bank will hand over the possession of property symbolically only and Successful Auction bidder/purchaser will not claim physical possession from the Bank.
c. Bank will not be responsible or duty bound for handing over of physical possession.
d. Successful Auction Purchaser will Inot be entitled to claim any interest, in any case of return of money.
e. Successful Auction Purchaser has to submit the I nit the Declaration Cum Undertaking confirming the above terms &condition immediately after e-Auction.
f. Subsequent to sale if successful bidder fails to submit Declaration Cum Undertaking, the bid EMD amount will be forfeited
g. The intending purchaser has to produce an Undertaking duly Stamped and Notarised as per Bank Format(in case of Sale on the basis of Symbolic Possession).
h. The borrower has filed a SA in DRT-Ahmedabad with diary 91/2025 & SA 49/2025. and in DRAT Chennai with diary 613/2025. This is for information.
(GST/TDS as per Government Rules applicable shall be payable by purchaser on sale of Movable/Immovable Assets.)
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction and online auction portal Baanknet.com. Also, prospective bidders may contact Authorised Officer and email for support to support.baanknet@psballiance.com and support.baanknet@procure247.com.Contact details of baanknet.com for technical issues is 6354910172 and 9913345536.

AS PER SARFAESI Act, STATUTORY 15-DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

The above mentioned borrower is is/are hereby noticed to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) Notice in full before the date of auction, falling which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with Interest and cost from borrowers/guarantors/mortgagor. **Contact Person: Shri Manoj kumar Gupta: Mo. 9024338042.**

Date: 13.05.2025 | Place : Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office : Bangalore

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 03.06.2025
Last date of EMD : 02.06.2025

ARM – I Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310066. E-Mail – cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **03.06.2025 at 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **02.06.2025 5.00 pm.**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection Date & Time
1.	**1. M/S Gokul Dairy** **Rep by its Partner's located at :** Sy No -240, No 157, NH -48 B M Road, Gottigere, Kunigal, Tumkur Dist.Karnataka - 572130. **2. Rep by its Partner** **Sri. K N Krishna Murthy** **S/o K R Narayanappa,** **3. Sri. K N Ranganath** **S/o Sri. K.R. Narayanappa,** No 565, Maddur Road, Kunigal, Tumkur Dist, Karnataka 572130. **4. Sri K R Gayathri** **W/o Sri K N Krishna Murthy,** **5. K Supriya D/o K N Krishna Murthy,** **No. 2,4 & 5 are at :** No.176, Sri Krishna, 5th Main, A Sector, Yelahanka new Town, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560064.	1. Residential Vacant Site Khatha No 2091/2570 (Old no-2570/5079), 2092/2571(Old no2571/5080), 2094/2578 (Old No - 2578/5087), 2096/2579 (Old No-2579/5088) situated at Kunigal town near Housing board colony and property is in the name of K N Krishna Murthy S/o K R Narayanappa. **Total extent of 4 site is 5220 Sq ft.** Boundaries: **East:** property be to Sarawathi bai, **West:** property belong to K N ranganath, **North:** property belong to K R Gayathri, **South:** Road. **Coordinates of the property** **Latitude- 130157.4N** **Longitude- 7703569E**	**Rs. 22,03,42,852.13** as on **11.05.2025** with further interest and cost there on	a) ₹ 234.90 b) ₹ 23.49 c) ₹ 1.00	**26.05.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
		2. Residential vacant site Situated at Khata no 2142/2580 (Old no 2580/5089) Kunigal Town, Municipal council, near KHB colony and property in the name of partner K R Gayathri W/o K N Krishna Murthy. **Total extent of land is 6120 Sq ft.** Boundaries: **East:** property belong to Sarawathi bai, **West:** property belong to K N Balaji Rao, **North:** Lake Yard, **South:** Road and property belong to K N Krishnamurthy **Coordinates of the property** **Latitude- 130133.3N** **Longitude- 770206.4E**		a) ₹ 203.79 b) ₹ 20.37 c) ₹ 1.00	
		3.Residential vacant site Khatha No 797/738 (Old No – 738/1368) situated at ward no -9, 3rd cross, madduru road Kunigal town Tumkur Dist. And property is in the name of partner K S Ragnath S/o K R Narayanappa. **Total extent of site is 2894 Sq ft.** **East:** Kodadarama Shetty house, **West :** Mukbul and Ahmed's House, **North :** Road, **South:** Road. **Coordinates of the property** **Latitude- 130123.8N** **Longitude- 770128.5E**		a) ₹ 97.67 b) ₹ 9.76 c) ₹ 1.00	
		4. Converted land site Sy.No.240/2, Old 240, Khata No.184/211 Old Khata No.240/2 measuring 2 acres 7 guntas plus 7 guntas of Kharab in all measuring 2 acre and 14 guntas within the limits of Beguru Village Panchayat, Gottigere Village, Hutrigere Village, Hutridurga Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur Dt., bounded by : **East:** Property of Shafiullah Khan, **West :** Road, **North:** Ansarulla Khan; **South:** Land of Abdul Azeez and Fiaz Khan **Valuation at time of sanction ₹.691.24** **Coordinates of the property** **Latitude- 130157.4N** **Longitude- 770356.9E**		a) ₹ 458.93 b) ₹ 45.89 c) ₹ 1.00	
		TOTAL		**₹ 995.29**	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 6381952519, 9966397756, 8098415841 and 9039609346 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 13.05.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

A BG-BGE

‘The Syrian people do not want another centralised regime in Syria’

Salih Muslim Muhammad, Syria’s main Kurdish leader spoke about the role of Turkey in the Kurdish question, the resurgence of the Islamic State (ISIS) and the ongoing struggle against them, and the Syrian Kurds’ ties with Israel

INTERVIEW

Salih Muslim Muhammad

Stanly Johny

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the jihadist group led by Abu Mohammed al-Jolani (also known as Ahmed al-Sharaa) that captured power in Syria in December, wants to establish a Salafi regime in Damascus, but the country’s minorities are opposed to it, says Salih Muslim Muhammad, Syria’s main Kurdish leader. In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Muslim, co-chairman of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) – the main party of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria – said the HTS was trying to establish another centralised regime in Damascus with a different ideology. The Kurdish people support a decentralised, democratic Syria, he said. He also spoke about the role of Turkey in the Kurdish question, the resurgence of the Islamic State (ISIS) and the Syrian Kurds’ ties with Israel. Edited excerpts.

Syria has seen dramatic developments in recent months. It took just 12 days for the HTS to capture Damascus after they launched an offensive in Aleppo in late November. How do you look at the changes in Syria?

Everybody followed what happened [in Syria]. Groups who are located in Idlib, most of them are jihadist groups, just went to the places occupied by Turkey and underwent training, helped by the Turkish side. And suddenly they woke up, went on to Aleppo, and then to the other cities, and they reached Damascus on December 8. Everybody should know that those groups are jihadists. We know them very well because we were fighting against them – Jabhat al-Nusra and then ISIS and the other groups. They have promised that they are going to change and make democratic changes in Syria. We are waiting to see what they are going to do. If they make [the promised] changes, we will be helping them. And then there was some other group – the Syrian National Army (SNA), which is under the control of Turkey. So HTS went to Damascus, and the other group [SNA] just marched towards Kurdish places. Since December, the fighting has been going on. We are still waiting for a proper ceasefire deal. On March 10, there was a kind of deal between our people and them – I mean, Mazloum Abdi (commander of the Kurdish led-Syrian Democratic Forces] and Jolani (Syria’s interim President), containing about eight points to be executed within one year. We are still trying to implement the deal.

The Kurdish people in Syria have enjoyed relative autonomy in recent years. Now that Assad is gone and HTS is in power in Damascus, do you think that this autonomy is under threat?

We have about 20 parties [in north and east Syria], and our party [the Democratic Union Party, or PYD] is the main and the oldest party among them. Now we are trying to unify all those parties so that we can unify the demands of the Kurdish people and even the Arabs in our areas, to reach some solutions with the new government. There have been a lot of struggles. The latest were those massacres that happened in the coastal area in western Syria against the Alawites [the minority sect to which the deposed President Bashar al-Assad belonged to], because they don’t like this regime. They don’t want those Islamic groups to control the country. We are supporting them. Also, we have Druze in the south of Syria. Syria is a mosaic society. So you have to find a formula where all those people can live together – nobody wants to go back to pre-2011 situation when Syria had a centralised regime. They are now looking for a decentralised government – it could be federalism or self-administered areas. The Alawites, Druze, the Kurdish people, and other minorities, everybody is looking for freedom. Those who are controlling Damascus insist on forming a very strict, centralised regime as it was before, but with a different ideology – before there was a Baathist regime, and now they are trying to make it a Salafi regime. This is not acceptable for the Syrian people. We are trying to democratise Syria; we think a democratic and decentralised regime will help everybody.

Salih Muslim Muhammad, co-chairman of the Democratic Union Party. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kurdish fighters were on the frontline of the battle against ISIS. What is the status of ISIS today in Syria?

There are ISIS-linked groups located in Idlib and areas occupied by Turkey. They have changed their names. Even this Jolani [Syria’s interim President] was ISIS before. But after he went to Idlib, he changed his [organisation’s] name to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). The other groups also took different names, but they all practise the same ideology. By the name of ISIS, we still have some groups in our areas, in Deir ez-Zor, and especially in the western side of Euphrates, which is not under our control. It was under the control of the [Assad] regime and the Russians, but they could not eradicate them from those areas. Now, after the regime fell, those groups got a lot of weapons and are organising themselves again. We have a camp called Al-Hawl, which is mainly for the families of Daesh [ISIS] members. We also have about 10,000 ISIS members in our prisons. ISIS is trying to get the prisoners released and get into the camp. They have their plans. And we also have sleeping cells everywhere. So the struggle is continuing. Daesh is not finished. It’s just been driven underground.

Turkey has also seen interesting developments of late. For example, Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), has called for a ceasefire and for disarming his organisation. Does it have anything to do with the Democratic Union Party?

We are not PKK. Ideologically, maybe, we are friends or brothers, but our party was established in Syria with the Syrian people, Kurdish people mainly. We have our plans and programmes. So we have nothing to do with Turkey. We always extended our hands for peace in Turkey because we are neighbours. But because of the Kurdish issue, Turkey has a kind of Kurdophobia. They don’t accept the existence of Kurds anywhere. They look at the Kurds as a danger for Turkey and they fight the Kurdish people everywhere – in Iraq, Iran and Syria. We can solve our problem with the Syrian government, but Turkey has always been an obstacle. They accuse us of having a relationship with the PKK, which is not true at all. Even when we established our defence forces, we did it against ISIS, which was attacking us in our areas. We never attacked any Turkish interest. And now, when Mr. Ocalan announces his call for peace, we hope peace would prevail between the PKK and Turkey, because it will relieve us too. If they solve their Kurdish issue inside Turkey, then they cannot blame the others. We heard some voices saying we should give up weapons too. If we do it, we will have to do it as part of our agreement with the Syrian regime, not with them.

The Kurdish-run camp, which holds relatives of IS fighters in the Hasakeh governorate, on April 18. AFP

Are you getting any support from other countries?

We have the international coalition in the area and they extended their hand to us. It’s a kind of a partnership against Daesh [ISIS]. And it happened in 2015 when the international coalition couldn’t find anybody fighting Daesh seriously other than us. So we said, OK, and this is still going on.

This coalition is led by the United States, isn’t it?

Yes, led by the United States. And they are in the area. They don’t dictate to us to do anything. We are partners only for fighting against ISIS and terrorism, nothing more than that. They didn’t promise to protect us. And of course, as everybody knows, when Turkey attacked our areas, they [the coalition] did nothing. We were attacked by the regime forces and those Salafi jihadists. They didn’t defend us. They are helping us as partners only for fighting against Daesh. And they continue to do so.

Israel has repeatedly voiced its support for Syria’s minorities, particularly after the fall of the Assad regime. What is your relationship with Israel? Is there any kind of cooperation between your Autonomous Administration and the state of Israel?

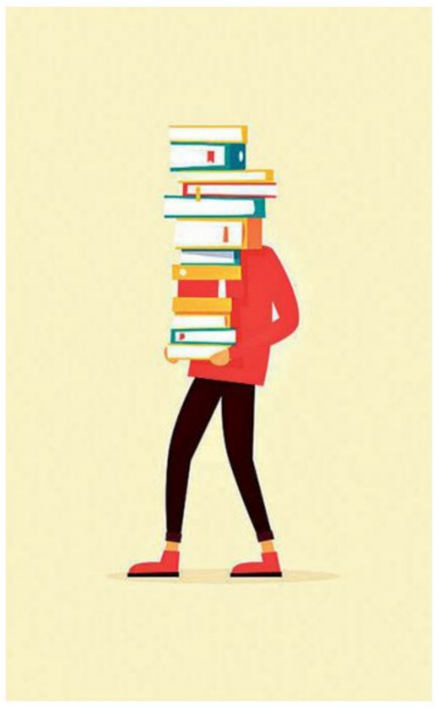
There are Jewish people living in our areas. The Kurdish people don’t have any enmity towards the Jewish people. This is historical. The Kurdish people are natural allies of the Jewish people. They are part of the Middle East [West Asia]. And we have to live together. This is our belief. But of course, there are no connections till now between the Kurdish people and the Israeli government. Recently, there were telephone conversations between our Foreign Affairs Committee and the Foreign Minister of Israel. If we do make any relations, it’s ordinary because several Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan and Gulf countries have already established diplomatic relations with Israel. So we don’t know what will happen in the future.

But how do you look at the war on Gaza?

We think this is not the way to solve problems. They were just fighting, killing... it doesn’t solve any problem. If they sit together for dialogue without any terrorism, they can resolve it. And we believe for the Palestinian and Jewish people, a democratic nation, which is what our project is, is convenient for them. But they have to believe in this democratic nation to live together – a democratic nation project for everybody.

You’re saying you support a single democratic nation for the Arabs and the Jews?

Yes, a democratic nation project for everybody, for different ethnicities and even different beliefs, where they can live together. They have to accept each other.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

“Who is an agnostic?”

“An agnostic is one ‘who believes that nothing is known, or can be known, of the existence of God’. He is not an atheist. He believes that nothing is known or can be known about the existence of God.

“What is the difference between ‘envious’ and ‘enviable’?

“ ‘Envious’ means ‘feeling or showing envy’. I don’t like his envious look. ‘Enviable’ means worthy of envy. He has an enviable job.”

“What is the name for each of the following in a group? Bees, cards, cars, deer, flowers, geese, grapes, keys, lions, leopards, pups, sheep, steps, whales.”

“A swarm of bees, a pack of cards, a fleet of cars, a herd of deer, a bunch of flowers, a gaggle of geese, a bunch of grapes, a bunch of keys, a leap of leopards, a pride of lions, a litter of pups, a flock of sheep, a flight of steps, a school of whales.”

“What is the difference between ‘turbid’ and ‘turgid’?”

“ ‘Turbid’ means ‘cloudy or muddy’. ‘Turgid’ means ‘swollen’. The river is turbid after the recent rains. It is also turgid.

“What is the difference between ‘mania’ and ‘phobia’?”

“A mania is an uncontrollable craze for something and a phobia is an unreasonable fear of something. He has a mania for cartoons and phobia about cats.”

The following was written by Lord Chesterfield in the 18th century about the way words change their meaning: “Not contented with enriching our language by words absolutely new, my fair countrywomen have gone still further, and improved it by the application and extension of old ones to various and very different significations. They take a word and change it, like a guinea into shillings for pocket-money, to be employed in the several occasional purposes of the day. For instance, the adjective vast, and its adverb vastly, mean anything, and are the fashionable words of the most fashionable people.

A fine woman, under this head I comprehend, all fine gentlemen too, not knowing in truth where to place them properly, is vastly obliged, or vastly offended, vastly glad, or vastly sorry. Large objects are vastly great, small ones are vastly little; and I had lately the pleasure to hear a fine woman pronounce, by a happy metonymy, a very small gold snuff-box that was produced in company to be vastly pretty, because it was vastly little.”

Published in The Hindu on July 2, 1996.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The human body is not merely biology, it’s a bit of simple and complex mathematics as well. How do you average against human physiology math?

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1
The skin is the largest organ in the human body. The question is how many square feet does the average adult human skin cover?

QUESTION 2
Sensitivity to taste depends on the number of taste buds on the tongue. “Supertasters” reportedly have 425 taste buds per square centimetre of the tongue. What is the range of taste buds that humans posses? Anywhere in the right range will be accepted.

QUESTION 3
How many skin cells do you figure humans lose every hour?

QUESTION 4
How many times does a heart beat over the course of an average human lifespan?

QUESTION 5
How long does the average person’s hair grow?

Visual question:
Roughly one decade ago, scientists discovered that the human nose can detect more odours than was ever believed. Until then it was believed that humans can discern about 10,000 smells. What was the revised estimate the scientists made? GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz: 1. Kohli made his Test debut against this country. **Ans: West Indies**
2. This player got Kohli out in his last Test innings. **Ans: Scott Boland**
3. A unique fact about Kohli’s first Test match as captain. **Ans: He scored hundreds in both innings**
4. Number of Test double centuries Kohli scored as skipper. **Ans: 7**
Visual: Name the venue. **Ans: Lord’s, England**
Early Birds: Arjun Debnath| Vineet Giri| Sadhan Panda| Pranab Biswas| Pankaj Kumar Pandey

Word of the day

Fester:
a sore that has become inflamed and formed pus; ripen and generate pus; become worse or more intense (of feelings)

Synonyms: maturate, suppurate

Usage: *His feelings of abandonment have been festering for years.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/festerpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈfɛstə(ɹ)/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Text & Context’

Stringent law needed to curb menace of wheeling on public roads: High Court

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking note of the alarming rise in incidents of wheeling, a motorcycle stunt, on public roads, the High Court of Karnataka has said that it is the duty of the State and its law enforcement agencies to legislate necessary legal provisions and to take stringent measures to suppress this perilous activity by plugging the loophole in the law.

A plain reading of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and the Indian Penal Code, 1860, it is found that the existing statutory provisions are not adequate for enforcement agencies to effectively curb the menace of "wheeling", the court said while pointing out that perhaps, at the time of enacting these laws, the legislators did not foresee or specifically contemplate that a two-wheeler would be driven on the hind wheel alone, and hence no express penal provision was envisaged to advert the said mischief.

Justice V. Srishananda made these observations while refusing to grant bail to Arbaz Khan, 29, a resident of Gangavati in Koppal district, who was arrested on the charge of manhandling the police who tried to stop him and his accomplices while they were indulging in wheeling on a public road.

No specific provisions

"At present, such acts are booked within the ambit of the general offences of reckless or negligent driving. However, it is to be noted that the absence of a specific and necessary provision has resulted in a legislative vacuum, affecting the efficacy of law enforcement agencies in curbing the menace of wheeling, as the offence of reckless driving is bailable in nature," the court observed.

The court said, "It [wheeling] is a trending menace in the public road which not only endangers the rider and pillion rider of the motorcycle, but also general public at large".

Not acts of bravado

It is also pertinent to note that act of wheeling, initially confined to urban areas on sufficiently wide and arterial roads, has extended its tentacles even to rural areas, the court said, while pointing out that the "younger generation riders of the motorcycle are under the misconception that the act of wheeling is bravado and indulge in such perilous stunts being unaware of the grave risks involved in the said act".

High Court to hear Sonu Nigam's petition challenging FIR tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday adjourned till Thursday the hearing on the petition filed by singer Sonu Nigam, who has challenged the first information report (FIR) registered against him on a complaint that he allegedly made an objectionable statement during a music concert at an engineering college in the city when a few individuals in the audience demanded that he sing Kannada songs.

Sonu Nigam

Justice Shivashankar Amarannavar, before whom Mr. Nigam's petition was listed for hearing, adjourned the hearing till Thursday after accepting the submission of the singer's counsel on an objection raised by the court's registry about a procedural defect in the petition documents.

The FIR was registered by the Avalahalli police on May 3 for the offences under Sections 351(2) (criminal intimidation), 352(1) (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), and 353 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the BNS based on a complaint lodged by Dharma Raj Ananthaiah, a Kannada activist.

Meanwhile, the singer, through a video message on social media, has clarified that his statements were a response to certain unpleasant comments made repeatedly by some individuals in the audience who had demanded a Kannada song just after his first song in the concert. He sang several Kannada songs during the concert later.

Fire at oil godown near Nelamangala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A fire broke out at the godown of an oil and gas company at Adkamaranahalli near Nelamangala on the outskirts of the city on Tuesday.

As many as 11 fire tenders, along with Fire and Emergency Services personnel, were pressed into service to contain the fire.

Oil and other material worth several lakhs of rupees have been destroyed. No casualty has been reported.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

An official statement from Shell regarding the incident said the warehouse is not owned or operated by the company. "Shell confirms that a fire has occurred at a third-party shared warehouse operated by Toll Logistics. This facility, which is not owned or operated by Shell, is used for the storage of lubricant products. We understand that there have been no casualties... A comprehensive assessment is in progress to determine the cause and extent of the fire."

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU · AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

T1/10821/2025 **TENDER NOTICE** **Date:12 .05.2025**

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-Tenders are invited from Manufacturers or Authorised Sole Distributor for Sl. No. 1 to 12 and Manufacturers or Authorised Sole Distributor or Authorised Dealer for Sl. No. 13 by the Chief Engineer (AE), Agricultural Engineering Department, 487, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-35 for the following items, as per the terms and conditions and detailed specification listed in the tender document.

Sl. No	Tender No.	Tender for the supply of	EMD (Rs. in lakh)
1	T1-1/ 2025-2026	15 Nos. of Tractor Operated Laser Leveler	0.75
2	T1-2/ 2025-2026	50 Nos. of Tractor Operated Disc Plough	0.40
3	T1-3/ 2025-2026	45 Nos. of Tractor Operated Rotary Mulcher	1.35
4	T1-4/ 2025-2026	4 Nos. of Geophysical Surveying Equipments – Resistivity Meter	0.18
5	T1-5/ 2025-2026	4 Nos. of Geophysical Surveying Equipments - Audio Magnetotelluric Instruments	0.22
6	T1-6/ 2025-2026	10 Nos. of Tractor 2 Wheel Drive	1.30
7	T1-7/ 2025-2026	75 Nos. of Rotavator	1.13
8	T1-8/ 2025-2026	115 Nos. of Tractor Operated 5 Tyne Duck Foot Cultivator	0.81
9	T1-9/ 2025-2026	115 Nos. of Tractor Operated 9 Tyne Spring Loaded Cultivator	0.81
10	T1-10/ 2025-2026	5 Nos. of Tractor Operated Ridge Moulder	0.23
11	T1-11/ 2025-2026	10 Nos. of Tractor PTO Operated Water Pump with Accessories	0.20
12	T1-12/ 2025-2026	10 Nos. of Wheel Type Paddy Combine Harvester	3.50
13	T1-13/ 2025-2026	5 Nos. of Multi Axle Carrier for Bulldozers	3.00

The tender documents with detailed specifications and Bill of Quantity (BoQ) are available in **www.tntenders.gov.in** as per schedule below. Tender documents and Bill of Quantity (BoQ) can be downloaded, filled and uploaded through Internet Explorer or Microsoft Edge from the site **www.tntenders.gov.in** at free of cost.
Tender Publishing Date and Time **14 .05.2025,10.00 AM** Tender document download – Start Date and Time **14 .05.2025,10.00 AM**
Bid submission - Start Date and Time **14 .05.2025, 11.00 AM** Bid submission - Closing Date and Time **12.06.2025, 02.00 PM**
Bid opening Date and Time **13.06.2025, 03.00 PM** The e-Tenders will be opened online through **www.tntenders.gov.in** on the date and time mentioned above at the office of the Chief Engineer (AE), Agricultural Engineering Department, Nandanam, Chennai.

DIPR/2131/Tender/2025 **Chief Engineer (AE)**

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that my client **Mr. CHANDRASHEKAR S Son of Mr. Sreenivasa Setty T,** residing at No. 780, 7th Main, 2nd Cross, BEML 4th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098, intend to purchase the Property mentioned below in the Schedule from its owner i.e, **Mr. S. BARATHAN** son of Mr. A. Seshachalam Gounder, residing at No. 11/130, Middle Street, Thattampalayam, Melkumaramangalam, Tamil Nadu-607 205 for a valuable Sale Consideration. If any person entity has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the Property mentioned below or any part, thereof, such a person submit his/her/their claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there is no claims/objections and my client shall proceed with the purchase of the Property mentioned below from its owner i.e. **Mr. S. Barathan.**

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **House List No. 46,** Katha No. **3/1A,** New BBMP Katha **No.72/3/1A/46,** New **E PID No.3295581956,** situated at **Pattanagere Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** presently comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore Ward No.198-Hemmigepura, site measuring **East to West 30 feet or 9.14 Mtrs and North to South 50 feet or 15.24 Mtrs in all measuring 1500 square feet or 139.35 square meters** together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface, bounded on;

East by : Property No. 45; West by : Property No. 47; North by : Road; South by : Property No.61;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436 / 8123124113
email : tilak.raghavendra@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sri. Animesh Shukla S/o. Sri. Manoj Shukla, & Smt. Mala Shukla W/o. Sri. Manoj Kumar have intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owners Mrs. Vijeta Singhal W/o. Sri. Sachin Singhal & Sri. Sachin Singhal S/o. Sri. Ashok Kumar, Both are residing at Flat no. B-301, in 3rd Floor of Mana Karmel Apartments, Old Sy. nos. 193 & 194, new sy. no. 193/1 & 194/1 of Kodathi village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client/s will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Residential Apartment Flat No. B-301, Village panchayath Khata bearing Property No. 1136/B301, PID No. 150200400400120432 measuring 110.13 Sq. Mtrs. of SBA in the 3rd floor of Apartment building know as "MANA KARMEL " with one covered Car Parking Slot in the Basement Floor with UDS 664 Sq. Ft. in the converted Old land bearing Old Sy. 194, New Sy. No.194/1, Situated at Kodathi Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and bounded on: East by : Open Space, West by : Corridor, North by : Open Space, South by : Open Space & Flat No. 302.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B,
Advocates, #1010, 2nd Floor,
7th A Main Road, 1st Block,
Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 13-05-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is issued on behalf of My clients **1.Sri.M.Chandrashekar Shetty** s/o Sri.Koragaya Shetty and **2.Smt.Jyothi.C.Shetty** w/o Sri.M.Chandrashekar Shetty to bring the notice of the general public that, they are intends to purchase the schedule property from **1.Mrs.Vasiya Taj Siddique, 2.Mrs.Zainab Siddique Rahman, 3.Mrs.Ruqayyah Fathima Siddique, 4.Mr.Yusuf Ameen Siddique, 5.Mrs.Zaakia Fathima Siddiqa @ Zaakia Siddique Shariff, 6.Mr.Mustafa Khaleel Siddique** Sl.Nos.2 to 6 rep by their GPA Holder **Mrs.Vasiya Taj Siddique.**

If any, person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the Schedule Property by way of inheritance, sale, agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **Seven (07) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, with all supporting documents failing which reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing **No.103,** Situated at **1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore,** now property comes under the revenue jurisdiction BBMP, Ward No.151 (Koramangala) having PID No.68-1-103, measuring East to West: **60 feet** and North to South: **40 feet**, in all measuring **2400 Sq.feet** and bounded on the :

East by : Road, West by : Site No.133, North by : Site No.104, South by : Site No.102

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE My client has entered into an agreement of Sale to purchase an property with its lawful owners M.S.RUDRAMURTHY S/o. Late Shivanna.C Aged about 44 years R/at Jyothi Nagara 3rd Cross, Kalya Gate-15, Magadi Ramanagar District, Ramanagar-562120 & Sri. VIRUPAKSHAIAH.G.N S/o. Late Nagaraj Aged about 47 years R/at Gavinagamangala, Ajjanahalli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagar District-561201, which is morefully described in the schedule hereunder: The owner represents that, apart from them there are no other person/s have right title and interest or claim over the schedule property and further represent that, they have not mortgaged, liens or encumbered the schedule property in any manner.

Any persons, financial institutions, authorities, etc., having any objection to the proposed transaction or any charge, lien, interest or title or claim whatsoever in respect of the schedule property or portion of it any manner may with proof of documentary evidence lodge their written objection/ claim within 7 days from the date of this notice with the undersigned.

If no valid objection or claim are received within the stipulated period, my client will proceed to complete the transaction of sale on the basis that there are no claim or whatsoever nature in respect of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property site bearing No.1901, (formed in Sy No.26/1 and 27 of Kenchapura Village), formed by BDA as Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout 2nd Block, 'I' Sector, measuring East to West (19.00 + 24.00)/2 Mtrs and North to South 12.00 Mtrs totally measuring 258.00 Sq Mtrs and bounded on: East by West by : Site No.1914 & 1915 : Road North by : Site No.1902 South by : Site No.1900, 1899 and 1898

B.Manjunath, Advocate,
No.27, 2nd Floor, Someshwara Complex,
Opp Srinivasa Hospital, Thulasithota,
Bengaluru-560 054. Mob: 7353294666

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

BJP to hold Tiranga Yatra across State, sans party symbols

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, R. Ashok, addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

To mark the success of Operation Sindoor and express solidarity with the Indian armed forces, the BJP in Karnataka will organise a Tiranga Yatra across the State, without featuring any party symbols. It will be held on May 15 here and other major cities subsequently.

Announcing this at a press conference on Tuesday, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, R. Ashok said people from all sections of society were welcome to participate in the yatra.

In Bengaluru, the yatra would start from Shirur Park to 18th Cross on Sampige Road in Malleswaram, with over 5,000 people expected to participate. "There will be no party flags and everyone is welcome," Mr. Ashok said.

"While the yatra will be held in district centres on May 16 and May 17, it will be held from May 18 to May 23 in taluk centres. The Indian Army has shown what happens when the *sindoor* of Indian women is touched. Over 100 terrorists have been killed, training camps destroyed, and Pakistan has been brought to the point of pleading to stop the war," he said.

Stating that Congress leaders should avoid "divisive rhetoric" on the announcement of ceasefire, Mr. Ashok said, "They talk of peace before a war but question why the war was stopped after the ceasefire."

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has consistently opposed war. The Congress tweeted about peace. However, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda is making contradictory statements. Whatever we say, the Indian Army's officers make the decisions. The ceasefire was also their decision. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has clarified there was no third party mediation on the ceasefire, and India will not accept any mediation," he said.

Kharge demands all-party meeting on issues surrounding ceasefire

He questions if external pressure and other factors influenced the declaration of truce

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI/BELAGAVI

The Congress wants answers to U.S. President's claim on securing a ceasefire, says Mallikarjun Kharge. FILE PHOTO

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene an all-party meeting in light of the circumstances surrounding the ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

Speaking to reporters at his residence in Kalaburagi on Tuesday, Mr. Kharge questioned whether external pressure and other factors influenced the declaration of the ceasefire.

"Donald Trump is claiming credit for the ceasefire. The Union government is denying any third party mediation. It is a sensitive issue. When an all-party meeting is convened, we will raise these issues. We will ask what exactly happened and what was discussed during the telephonic conversation [with Mr. Trump]. I demand an all-party meeting where we will raise these issues. It is improper to discuss them here," he said.

He further stated that he would be heading to Delhi to attend a party meeting, during which the issue of calling an all-party meeting would also be deliberated upon.

Meanwhile, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister and Kalaburagi district in charge, Priyank Kharge, questioned Mr. Modi on the whereabouts of the terrorists who killed 26 tourists at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking in Kalaburagi, he said that terrorists "easily entering the country, killing innocent people and going back" speaks volumes about the poor governance and weak national security framework of the administration.

Speaking in Vijayapura, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said that some vital questions were still to be answered, such as why the military aggression against Pakistan was started and whether its purpose had been achieved.

"The State government has expressed full support to the Union government in its actions against Pakistan. We stood fully behind them. However, the ceasefire has raised some questions, rather than answering them. There is no explanation on whether the purpose has been achieved, now that the ceasefire has been announced,'' he said in response to a query by reporters.

"People believed that the military action was started to teach a lesson to Pakistan against supporting terrorists. We expected the Union government to go after Pakistan and teach it a lesson that they would never forget. Our actions had to be so effective that Pakistan would never dare to support any more terrorism in our country," he said, adding that the ceasefire had put an "abrupt end" to the military actions, which could well "raise doubts about whether it would enable Pakistan to continue its support to terrorist activities."

Cong. puts up posters highlighting Indira's leadership in 1971 war

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A banner hailing former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi put up in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The State Congress on Tuesday installed flex boards and put up posters with photographs of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, highlighting her leadership during the 1971 India-Pakistan war, at 20 prominent junctions in Bengaluru. They attempted to compare the situation which prevailed in 1971 and today's by saying that despite the bravery of the armed forces, the Central government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was not behind it.

During Operation Sindoor, India and Pakistan agreed for a ceasefire at the behest of the U.S. President Donald Trump. Before the military top brass directed the soldiers to stop operations, Mr. Trump announced the ceasefire between the two countries, the Congress said.

Taking a jibe at the Narendra Modi-led government, the Congress in one of the flex boards said, "Indira Gandhi didn't need hashtags... She made history." Another poster said, "India remembers Durga." Former Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee described Indira Gandhi as "Durga" after India's victory against Pakistan in 1971. Another poster said, "Indira would've ended it before it began."

The Congress further said that "at that time, the Indian Army, which gave a befitting reply to Pakistan, achieved a historic victory in just 13 days. The Indian Army had penetrated as far as Lahore, Pakistan."

In 1971, 93,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered. Indira Gandhi herself visited the war zone, the Congress pointed out. "The people are saying that Mr. Modi went to campaign for the Bihar elections instead of attending the all-party meeting," said the party in a statement.

BJP objects to posters

Reacting strongly to the banners, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, R. Ashok, criticised the timing of the Congress posters. "This is not the time to put up posters of Indira Gandhi," he said.

Temple committee apologises to Muslims hurt by Belthangady MLA's remarks

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

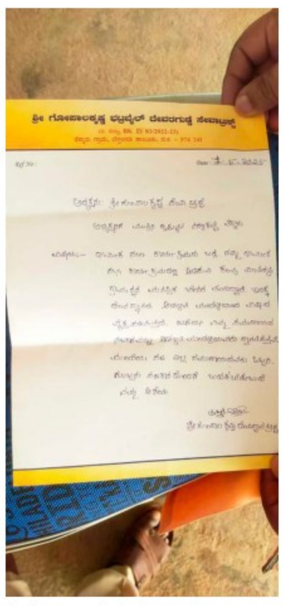
The trust managing Gopalakrishna Temple at Bhattarabailu in Tekkar village of Belthangady taluk, Dakshina Kannada district, has apologised to Muslims who were hurt by the alleged hate speech made by Belthangady MLA, Harish Poonja, during the 'dharmika sabha' programme of temple's Brahmakalashotsava function on May 3.

The MLA reportedly blamed a section of the Muslims for damaging some tubelights put up by the Brahamkalashotsava organising committee. The MLA questioned the organising committee members for inviting Muslims for the event.

Following a complaint, the Uppinangady police filed a case against the MLA on May 4, charging him of making an inflammatory speech. Mr. Poonja was booked under Section 353 (2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. In a May 5 letter to the temple trust, members of the local Muslim Okkoota expressed unhappiness over the allegation made by the MLA. "We have been living in harmony with all communities and participating in each other's festivities. The baseless comment by the MLA, who represents all communities, deeply hurt us. Hence, we expressed our anguish with the trust through the letter," Abdul Razak, president of Tekkar Gram Panchayat and organising secretary of Muslim Okkoota, Saralikatte, Tekkar, told *The Hindu*.

Following a meeting with members of the Okkoota on May 7, the trust issued a letter on the same day, apologising to the Muslim community for adverse comments made during the Dharmika Sabha programme. Thanking the community members for their active participation in the Brahmakalashotsava, the trust said it wanted all communities to continue with living in harmony in the future.

Meanwhile, speaking to presspersons in Mangaluru on May 5, the MLA justified his speech. Mr. Poonja said that he only "awakened the Hindu society" through his words. The government interpreted it as communal and inflammatory.



An image of the letter by Gopalakrishna Temple Trust at Tekkar in Belthangady taluk apologising to a section of Muslims. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Man arrested for abusing Modi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bandepalya police arrested a 25-year-old electrician here on Tuesday for allegedly posting objectionable content against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his social media account.

The accused uploaded the content on social media. The post went viral, promoting police to take up a *suo motu* case.

The accused, according to the police, has been identified as Nawaz, a resident of Mangammanapalya. He blamed Mr. Modi for the tension on the India-Pakistan border and suggested that a bomb be dropped on the PM's residence. He has been booked under various sections of the IT Act, for creating nuisance and causing hatred between communities. He has been remanded in judicial custody..

'Projects stalled owing to delay in release of funds by Centre'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While there is no dearth of funds for Railway and national highway projects in the State, Karnataka's irrigation projects have been in limbo for many years as the Centre has not released the announced funds, Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta has said.

He was apprising the State government's Special Representative in New Delhi T.B. Jayachandra and Vice-Chairman of the State Policy and Planning Commission, B.R. Patil, about the release of Central government funds for State development works for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 at a meeting held on Tuesday.

"The announced funds from the Centre are not being released for water resources and minor irrigation, and groundwater development projects. Thus, the State's irrigation projects have been in limbo for many years," he said.

Although the Central government announced ₹5,300 crore in the 2023-2024 Budget for the Upper Bhadra project, funds have not been released.

The neighbouring Telangana government was responding positively to the Krishna and Tungabhadra irrigation projects, while the Andhra Pradesh government was taking a negative stance, which was why the irrigation project was delayed, he said.

Mr Gupta informed Mr Jayachandra and Mr Patil that although the Union Water Resources Minister called a meeting, no one from Andhra Pradesh participated. "The States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are not responding positively to Karnataka's projects. We should pressurise the Central government to ensure that the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu governments agree to Karnataka's projects," he said.

Mr. Jayachandra said that necessary financial assistance should be provided to the five food parks being set up in the State.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar Bidar

No.EO/KVAFSU/T.No.127-Call-2/Works/2025-26 Date:08.05.2025

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement portal only)

1) Works Details Construction of Various essential buildings for LFC / LPT / VPP/VCC Department sat Veterinary College Puttur, 2) Tender Estimate Amount **Rs.4,33,75,186.00** 3)Contractors eligibility details As mentioned e-portal,4) Tender Amount Details **Rs.4,33,75,186.00,** 5) Cost of tender form and EMD details As mentioned e-portal, 6) Pre-Bid meeting at Estate Branch KVAFSU Bidar on 29.05.2025 at 11.00 AM, 7) Last date for submitting application 09.06.2025 up to 5.00 PM, 8) Opening of Technical Bid (Two Cover Works)11.06.2025 at 11.30 AM, 9) Opening of financial bid 18.06.2025 at 11.30. AM,10) For more details contact office address, contract numbers Office of the Estate Officer KVAFSU, Nandinagar,Bidar 08482-245446,11) Website detailse-procurement portal- https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/39/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Estate Officer KVAFSU, Bidar**

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 009.

Tender Notification

Karnataka Housing Board invites tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through KPP Portal for below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Work Indent & IFT No	Amount put to tender in Rs.	Last Date for submission of bid
1.	Construction of Post Matric Boys Hostel at Anagol, Belagavi District (BCWD 1607) under NABARD RIDF Tranch-30.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2024-25/BD/ WORK_INDENT 540/CALL-2 & IFT No.311/2024-25, Date: 09.05.2025	3,77,94,745/-,	09.06.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.
2.	Construction of post matric girls hostel at Bhairidevarakoppa in Hubballi Taluk, Dharward District (BCWD 1968) under NABARD RIDF Tranch-30.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2025-26/BD/ WORK_INDENT 590 & IFT No.41/2025-26, Date: 12.05.2025	3,73,15,444/-,	10.06.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address:
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, Telephone No. 080-22273511/080-22100077 website: https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/RO638/AAPL/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KHB.**

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮಾನವಿ.
Town Municipal Council, Manvi
Website: http//:www.manvitown.mrc.gov.inDistrict:Raichur,Karnataka, Pin: 584123
Email: itstaff_ulb_manvi@yahoo.co.in, Phone no: 08538-220700

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಪುಸಮಾ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/05/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:09–05–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್)

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: 40011 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ದಾರರು www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.manvitown.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯ ಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: 1) ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ: 2025-26/ 15TH FC UNTIED GRANT. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ: DMA/ 2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT:40011.ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ: Construction of Scientific Sanitary Landfill at Old SWM site in Manvi Town.ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ(ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 92.1 ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ವಿವರ: 155835. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31/05/2025 5:30 PM.

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಪುರಸಭೆ ಮಾನವಿ.

DIP/RCR/97/KSMCA/97/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

"We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord."– 2 Corinthians 5:8

May 21, 1976 — May 12, 2025

Mrs. Priya Packiavathana. J

W/o. Mr. D. Winston, M/o. Mr. Abel Sam
D/o. Adv. John Chandraraj & Mrs. Revathy Amelia

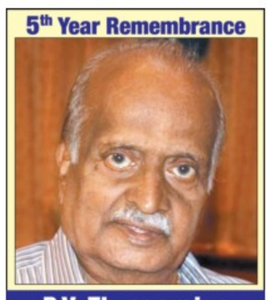
You will always be part of us in our hearts and our prayers, we will miss you and fondly remember you in every moment of our life.

Funeral service will be held at St. Paul's Church, East Sivanthipuram, Ambasamudram Taluk on 14.05.2025 at 10:00 A.M.

FAMILY MEMBERS

REMEMBRANCE

5th Year Remembrance



P.V. Thyagarajan

The pain of your loss may never fully fade, but the memories we shared forever will stay.

Fondly Remembered by

Wife: Indira Thyagarajan
Daughters: Janani, Geetha
Sons-in-law: Kumar, Prakash
Son: Karthik
Daughter-in-law: Samaya & Grandchildren

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

‘Social stock exchange listing will become crucial for NGOs in the years to come’

Bengaluru-based Unnati Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation working towards making the Indian youth workforce- ready, was the first NGO to be listed on the NSE and BSE Social Stock Exchange

INTERVIEW

Ramesh Swamy

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The youngsters who enrol for the programme are trained for 35 days and are ensured a job in a corporate company, says Ramesh Swamy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ramesh Swamy, Director of Unnati Foundation Bengaluru, was a student at Regional Engineering College - Bhopal (which later became NIT-Bhopal) in 1984, when the Bhopal gas tragedy struck. The college was located far from the disaster site, but Swamy remembers hearing loud sirens and clarion calls in the wee hours of the day. Students, including him, rushed to help.

“Two children to whom I was giving oxygen passed away,” recollects Swamy, who feels December 3, 1984, changed his life. “Since then, I have always felt like I wanted to do something for society.”

While he started off with funding education of school students alongside running his logistics business, he later pivoted to skilling the youth. Bengaluru-based Unnati Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation working towards making Indian youth workforce- ready, became the first NGO to be listed on the NSE and BSE Social Stock Exchange in 2023.

Swamy talks to *The Hindu* about skilling gap in the country, how the programmes of the foundation aim to bridge this gap and how the social stock exchange could help NGOs.

Tell us about Unnati

We started Unnati in 2003 based on three major principles.

One, if we train somebody, we must give them a job. We are very clear about creating impact and a job after the training is important to ensure that. The youngsters who enrol for the programme are trained for 35 days and are ensured a job in a corporate company. So far, we have been able to maintain a 100% track record.

Second, we looked at inclusive growth. Inclusive growth is not just about money, but also about your behaviour, communication, personal grooming, and so on. Those life skills and values are a big part of the training.

Third was, they should become a change agent who is able to create a change in the society or the community from where they come.

In the first five years, we were able to train 320 youngsters. We then started training at a centre and the number started going up from 60 a year to 600-1000 a year.

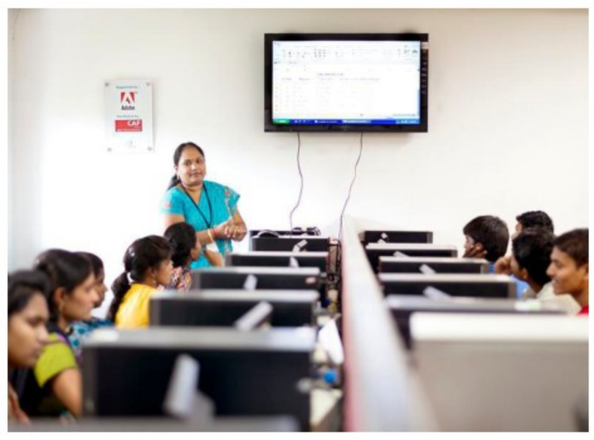
By 2011, we formed a separate company called SGBS Unnathi Foundation, a Section 8 company, to drive employability. In 2014, Axis Bank came in and helped us to scale up to around 30 centres.

Today we have around 50 centres in seven states. There are 15-16 centres in Karnataka, five in Delhi, 15 centres in Maharashtra, one in Tamil Nadu, two in Andhra, two in Telangana, and so on.

Can you tell us about the UNXT programme?

In 2018, a then nodal placement officer of Karnataka government told us that government colleges saw less than 10% placement rate. Around 1,50,000 youth come out of government colleges every year.

Unnati skill centre at Sadanandanagar, Bengaluru.



Tally session at Unnati. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ramesh Swamy
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Such a dismal number of people getting jobs is a serious concern. Many from rural backgrounds don’t get hired because of inability to communicate and lack of confidence. But unemployability leads to frustration, anger, and anti-social activities making it a dangerous situation.

We thought how we could offer them a level playing field and felt if we could help them strengthen their communication, grooming, confidence, attitude and inclination for continuous, it could help them crack interviews and get their first job. That is when we started UNXT. It is a free, 165-hour, CSR-funded training initiative that equips underprivileged youth with these real-world skills. Our people go to colleges and train students in English, life skills, values.

By 2022-23, skilling started getting a lot of focus, with the Prime Minister also talking about it. So there was a bigger shift of CSR into skilling. That helped us. In 2024 alone, over 1.26 lakh youth across 12 states were trained through UNXT. In 2025-2026, we are looking at training 2 lakh youth across the country, only through CSR. The costs are as low as ₹1,600 per person.

Our next big step is now taking shape. We have a portal called Udyogam where the UNXT trainee’s video resume will be featured for companies which are hiring. The idea is to see if we could reach MSMEs in smaller towns and villages. This would facilitate local hiring which could stop a lot of migration.

In the Unnati programme, how do you guarantee jobs?

Frankly, that is the easiest part. If I create a product which everyone uses, is superior, and offer it at the right price, there will definitely be demand for it. Here that product is the empowered youngsters who are being trained. Our placements happen in 48 hours after the training period.

What sectors do they find jobs in?

People who are not educated at all or are below 10th standard find jobs in logistics, food chain backend, hospitality and so on. Those who are 10th standard-plus get hired by retail shops such as Shoppers Stop, Fab India, Westside, Soch and so on as salespersons. Twelfth standard-plus get into domestic BPO. Those with slightly better education get placed in BFSI where they require people in insurance, data, monitoring and so on.

For UNXT I’m aiming to train 2 lakh people this year. In UNXT 35% get jobs. The moment my Udyogam becomes better. The reach becomes better. Those who will be getting listed on Udyogam will only be from the UNEXT.

What about jobs offered after UNXT programme?

Currently around 30-35% people trained in UNXT find jobs. Largely they are from ITI or BA/B.Com background. Bulk of them find administrative jobs. A large part of ITI trainees find jobs in factories. But we don’t have full details of their placements.

The programme is funded by CSR, and we don’t charge participants. We are audited by the approved auditor of the government of India and in the audit, it was revealed that 81% of the youth whom we have trained, belong to SC/ST and OBCs. 90-plus percentage are from the rural areas.

Under the centre model we charge ₹1,000. In the Bengaluru centre, we charge ₹5,000 as it also includes food and stay. But in case the participants don’t have money to pay us upfront, they can pay us back after they get placed and start earning. In all other centers except Bengaluru, it’s day-scholar model.

Unnati was the first NGO to be listed on Social Stock Exchange (SSE). Has it helped the work you do?

On December 13, 2023, we became the first organisation in the country to be registered and listed in the social stock exchanges. As of today, there are only 13-14 organisations which have been listed and registered on SSE. Unnathi has done it twice. We created history again when we registered again on March 13th this year.

It lends credibility to our work and tells the world that our books, documentation and compliance is in place. It shows our transparency and impact.

It also helps us to have our housekeeping in good order.

How does SSE work? Why did you list again in March?

SSE works slightly different from the traditional stock exchange.

Unlike the stock exchange of a commercial nature where shares are issued, here an instrument called the ZCZP instrument goes into the donor account. If you donate ₹10,000, you get a 10,000 ZCZP instrument in your DMAT account.

The day I complete my work and submit the report, your ZCZP instrument which was valued at 10,000 will become zero. You don’t get dividends. It is purely a donation, and anybody can donate. The minimum investment in SSE was recently lowered by Sebi to ₹1,000.

If I have to raise money again, I have to go back and list again. And I will be monitored by Sebi and NSE. As a donor, you don’t have to worry if the organization is credible.

Has getting listed at SSE helped you with more donations?

The word has not spread much yet. I think it will take a few years for SSE to become very popular and respected. But we are already on that journey. Slowly, the trickle is happening. The change will happen in the years to come, and then it will become very important to be listed on SSE.

For example, Darpan ID today has become a very important document for CSR. There is no rule mandating it. But many CSR officials now refuse funds to NGOs if they don’t have a Darpan ID. A similar situation might arise tomorrow for SSE where people might lose out if they are not listed on it. One needs to be ahead of that curve.

Researchers develop new metal-free organic catalyst which can produce hydrogen fuel by harvesting mechanical energy

According to the Department of Science and Technology, in order to reduce global warming and the related impact of fossil fuels, the transition towards sustainable alternatives based on renewable energy becomes increasingly critical

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an interdisciplinary study, researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), along with other institutions, have developed a novel, cost-effective, metal-free porous organic catalyst for efficient Hydrogen fuel production by harvesting mechanical energy.

According to the Department of Science and Technology, in order to reduce global warming and the related impact of fossil fuels, transition towards sustainable alternatives based on renewable energy becomes increasingly critical.

Game-changing source

“Green hydrogen (H_2) fuel has emerged as a game-changing renewable and clean-burning energy source, which generates no direct carbon emissions and only water as a by-product when used in fuel cells,” it said.

Professor Tapas K. Maji from the Chemistry and Physics of Materials Unit at JNCASR and his research team have developed a metal-free donor-acceptor based covalent-organic framework (COF) for piezocatalytic water splitting.

This study published in Advanced Functional Materials demonstrates a Covalent organic framework (COF) built from imide linkages between organic donor molecule tris(4-aminophenyl)amine (TAPA) and acceptor molecule pyromellitic dianhydride (PDA) acceptor exhibiting unique ferrielectric (FiE) ordering, which showed efficient piezocatalytic activity for water splitting to produce H2.

The metal-free porous organic catalyst was developed by researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, along with other institutions. FREEPIK

“This discovery breaks the traditional notion of solely employing heavy or transition metal-based ferroelectric (FE) materials as piezocatalysts for catalyzing water splitting reaction,” the department stated.

Using a simple donor molecule like TAPA and an acceptor molecule like PDA, Prof. Maji and his research team have built a COF system that has strong charge transfer properties, which creates dipoles (separation between positive and negative charges).

Instability in structure

This causes instability in the lattice structure, leading to FiE ordering. These FiE dipoles interact with flexible twisting molecular motion in the material, making them responsive to mechanical pressure.

As a result, the material can generate electron-hole pairs when mechanically stimulated, making it a highly efficient piezocatalyst for water splitting for H2 production. The team comprises four other researchers from JNCASR: Adrija Ghosh, Surabhi Menon, Dr. Sandip Biswas and Dr. Anupam Dey.

Apart from JNCASR, Dr. Supriya Sahoo and Prof. Ramamoorthy Boomishankar from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune and Prof. Jan K. Zaręba from Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Poland made important contributions to the present interdisciplinary study.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 14, 1975

Rain-making Tests in Sharavathi

Bangalore, May 13: The State Government and the Electricity Board have again plumped for a plan for cloud-seeding experiments in the catchment areas of the Linganamakki reservoir of the Sharavathi hydel project. The reservoir level is causing anxiety.

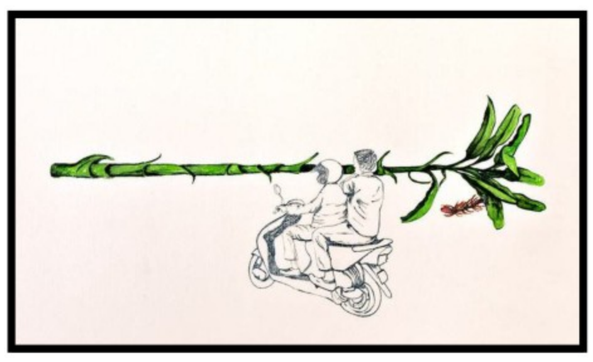
It was stated here today that a private firm in Bombay had offered to place at the disposal of the Board its own aircraft for the cloud seeding. The State Government and the Board have approached the Director General of Civil Aviation and the Central Meteorological Department for clearance for the experiments.

Last year, the State could not carry out a similar experiment for want of an aircraft.

World Bank Aid for Upper Krishna project likely

Bangalore, May 13: It was proposed to extend irrigation facilities under the Ghataprabha and the Malaprabha projects from 2.3 lakh acres to 3.8 lakh acres during 1975-76, Mr. D. J. Balaraj, Development Commissioner, said here today.

He was inaugurating the South Zone in service training session of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO). The State hoped to irrigate about 10 lakh acres ultimately under these two projects.



Attention to detail From Bring Me Flowers by Mohit Mahato (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Say it with flowers

Mohit Mahato's first solo show, Bring me flowers, features simple line sketches inspired by nature

Ruth Dhanaraj

"I want people to be relaxed and enjoy my show. There is no life-changing message I am trying to convey with my work. It is about the joy of creating and sharing that happiness with others," says Mohit Mahato.

The artist, who hails from Jamshedpur, is hosting his first solo show at Gallery Sumukha. Mohit's sojourn into the world of art stemmed from an unfortunate firecracker accident when he was in higher secondary school. His elder brother, who was working in Bengaluru at the time, urged his mother to encourage Mohit to start drawing again.

"He suggested I start with the basics of lines and curves using my right hand, telling us there was a college of fine arts in Bengaluru where I could study further – something that was unheard of at the time in my hometown," says Mohit, an alumni of the College of Fine Arts at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath.

After graduation, he went on to work at Gallery Sumukha for seven years; a stint that ended earlier this year. "When you work at an art gallery, you are constantly dreaming of hosting your own show someday, of how you would work within that space etc. That was a time of learning for me," says the artist, who used to assist at the gallery in multiple roles.

Two years ago, founder-director of Gallery Sumukha, Premilla Baid, had told Mohit he could host his show there if he could produce a substantial body of work; the result is Bring Me Flowers.

Delicate lines which seem repetitive, but necessary are a huge part of his drawing. While most are done in black and white, a few sport a single colour, making its effect on the canvas more pronounced.

Route not taken

In 2017, Mohit began Pagal Canvas – a publication house that printed art books and graphic novels, and collaborates with different multimedia practices, in partnership with his friend, Anand Shenoy, who was a comic book artist.

"The zine culture was picking up in Bengaluru and there was no platform to showcase contemporary work by budding artists. While I enjoyed creating colouring books and the small book format, Anand enjoyed telling stories through images. That is how Pagal Canvas began in 2017, with us giving our juniors and other artists a chance to showcase the work they had created in class."

Four years ago, the duo began a print studio called Pagal Canvas Backyard to support print culture. "I always wanted a space where artists, students and like-minded people could sit together, discuss ideas or watch something together, building a community in the process."

They began with screen printing comics and the circulation of booklets, moving on to hosting residencies for fellow artists. Mohit says in between juggling these responsibilities and his day job at the gallery, he found himself participating in group shows and creating cyanotypes (a photographic print).

"Whenever I discussed my idea of a solo show, people simply assumed it would be a comic book or a cyanotype. It always took me a while to make them understand there was so much more to my art. I finally decided on drawings for my first show, works that would reveal something about my work and method."

Mohit says his mentors had always told him that drawings were his strong point. "Once I got back home in the evenings, I would spend time on my sketches. The simple lines leading up to detailed images gave me a great measure of peace and relaxation. It was therapeutic," says the artist, adding that Nature has been an important part of his life and art.

"If a flower knew it would fall to the ground in a few days, would it refuse to bloom? Or would a seed resist sprouting because it would change shape? It doesn't matter if I'm happy or sad, I believe Nature holds the answer," he says, elaborating on how the natural world remains steadfast on its course no matter what.

"I wanted my work to be like that too, much like a journal of my life. I wanted to share my passion with people and show them what I enjoy doing."

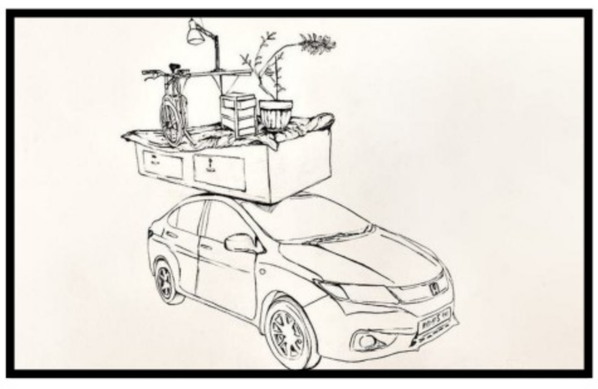
Despite this philosophical bent, Mohit says his work is for pleasure and nothing more.

On display at the gallery are seed pods, flowers and twigs that Mohit has collected over the years during his walks; some unusually shaped, others in their regular avatar. "They inspire me to paint. I know I cannot recreate an exact replica, but they motivate me to create something." Mohit says he once came across a seed pod that looked like the golden snitch from quidditch of Harry Potter or another one that resembled the "Earth's ear pod".

Well, with Nature as his guide, Mohit has created a book on flora and bound it with ceramic tiles that had flowers pressed on to the surface, as well as embedding pages in a mahogany seed pod. Small notes accompany his works which are executed on rice paper for "that raw, authentic" feel. His collection of organic specimens is also on display at Bring Me Flowers.

Bring Me Flowers by Mohit Mahato is on at Gallery Sumukha till May 17. Entry free.

> There is no life-changing message I convey with my work. It is only about the joy of creating and sharing that happiness with all.
>
> **MOHIT MAHATO**
> Artist



Hamsageethe: Standing the test of time

Soul song Anant Nag (above) essayed the lead role in *Hamsageethe*, stills and a poster from the movie, director GV Iyer (below). THE HINDU AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

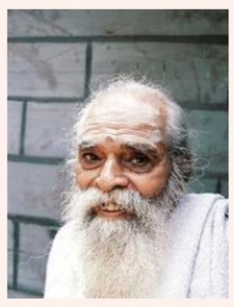
Muralidhara Khajane

The year 1975 was a culturally significant one for parallel cinema in Karnataka, with the release of MS Sathyu's *Garam Hava*, BV Karanth's *Chomana Dudi*, *Pallavi* by P Lankesh, *Kankana* by MBS Prasad and GV Iyer's *Hamsageethe*. While the first two films received a great deal of critical attention, *Hamsageethe* faded from public memory despite the two national awards it won.

A cut above

This year marks five decades of the film, (*Hamsageethe* was released on August 17, 1975) which won praise for its imaginative cinematography by Nemai Ghosh, absorbing music by M Balamuralikrishna and BV Karanth, artwork by P Krishnamurthy, stellar acting by Ananth Nag, BV Karanth and Rekha Rao, and direction by Iyer. *Hamsageethe* (which means swan song) tells of the circumstances that lead 19th-century Carnatic singer Bhairavi Venkatasubbaiah to defy royal patronage and declare, through self-mutilation of the tongue, that "music is nobody's slave".

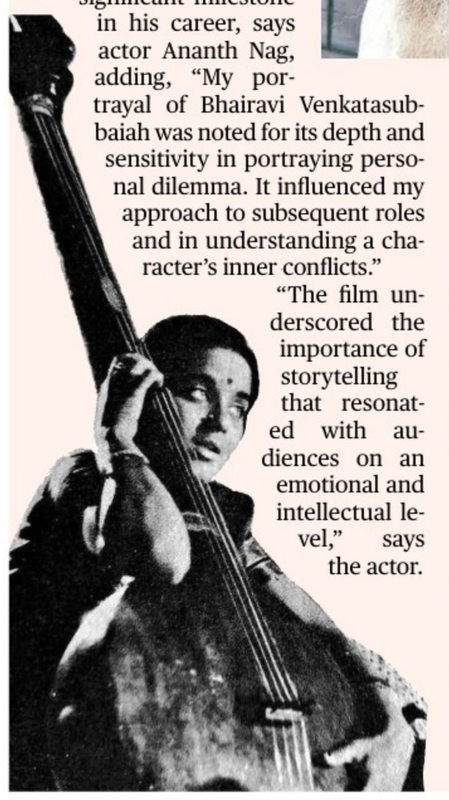
Hamsageethe is based on Talukina Ramaswamayya Subba Rao's (TaRaSu) eponymous 1952 novel. The Hindi film, *Basant Bahar* based on the novel, was made in 1956. Directed by MV Raman, the songs composed for *Basant Bahar* are still counted among the most melodious, and the movie won Certificate of Merit for the Best Feature Film in Hindi at the fourth National Film Awards in 1956.



Insider's view

Hamsageethe marked a significant milestone in his career, says actor Ananth Nag, adding, "My portrayal of Bhairavi Venkatasubbaiah was noted for its depth and sensitivity in portraying personal dilemma. It influenced my approach to subsequent roles and in understanding a character's inner conflicts."

"The film underscored the importance of storytelling that resonated with audiences on an emotional and intellectual level," says the actor.



According to Ananth, around the time *Hamsageethe* was released, the parallel cinema movement was slowly gaining acceptance in Karnataka, and encouraged Iyer to craft it along the lines of new wave cinema.

Rekha Rao, who plays Chandra, the female protagonist, recalls her experience in working with Iyer in *Hamsageethe*, saying, "I was just 16 then. Iyer had watched my performance in a play and decided to cast me for the role."

Following *Hamsageethe*, Rekha says she acted in films including *Kuduremotte*, *Naalegalannu Maaduvavaru*, VRK Prasad's *Prema-Kama* and S Diwakar's *Ithihasa*. "It was a wonderful experience to work with Iyer, he was a master of filmmaking."

Barefoot filmmaker

Director Ganapathi Venkatarama Iyer, popularly known as the 'barefoot filmmaker' because he renounced footwear, began his creative career in Kannada theatre. On entering commercial cinema, he acted, produced and directed, eventually gaining recognition for *Vamshavruksha*, which he jointly directed with Girish Karnad and BV Karanth. *Hamsageethe* came three years later, and was hailed for the fact that its dialogues lasted no more than 18 minutes.

Critics and film historians regard *Hamsageethe* as one of Iyer's best films, mainly for the appropriate use of classical Carnatic music. Iyer was convinced that the limitation of the spoken word could be overcome through the creative powers of music.

Musical hinge

Hamsageethe is still loved for its use of *tanam*, *Himadrisuthe*, *Chintam Nastikilam*, *Manamaye*, *Kalinganarthana Thillana*, and Sri Saraswathi, as well as excerpts from *Geetha Govinda*, *Nathahare*, *Thava Virahe Vanamali*, and *Amba Tavapadambhoja*.

Apart from music, *Hamsageethe* was a celebration of classical dance forms – Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi, and was choreographed by Radhakrishna and Adyar K Lakshman.

In talks with Iyer

When GV Iyer passed away in 2003, at the age of 86, he was still actively pursuing his craft and one of his films remains unreleased.

This author met him in 1993, when Iyer was making *Bhagavad Gita*, the first Sanskrit language film with few dialogues in Hindi and Telugu.

When asked why he chose to keep the dialogues in *Hamsageethe* to a minimum, Iyer had said, "People have failed to understand that cinema is primarily a visual medium. I believe that silence has a greater impact on the audience than spoken words."

CITYBEATS

Creative glasses

MAY 14

As a mid-week escape, KOKO Bengaluru has introduced a limited edition of 'Raising the Bar'. There will be five signature, one-night-only cocktails featuring refined expressions such as Beefeater, Beefeater Pink, Malfy Con Limone, Monkey 47, and Ki No Bi. Also available are Pink Gin Spritz, La Dolce Vita Smash, Starfruit Bramble and more.
At Koko, Prestige Icon, Old Airport Road, 9pm onwards. Call 9844194747.

Pesto 'n' more

ONGOING

Toscano has a limited-time culinary showcase that re-imagines pesto. There is an antipasti-pesto platter served with spicy, flavour-packed options such as pesto calabrese, pesto verde and pesto alla olive. One can also enjoy mains such as risotto al pesto di piselli e menta con salmone and pollo grigliato con crosta di pesto di olive along with a range of desserts.
On at all Toscano outlets.

Dance delight

MAY 16

Sri Raja Rajeshwari KalaNiketan and the Academy of Music, Bengaluru, will present the 50th Samanvay Arts Festival – *Nruthya Rangoli* - a grand celebration of Indian classical dance, featuring *Shri Krishna Leelaarnava: From Birth to the Bhagavad Gita*, which will be presented by 14 dance institutions from across the city.
At Chowdiah Memorial Hall, from 5.30pm. Call 8050209838 for donor passes.

From Page One

PhonePe plea dismissed

It was contended by PhonePe that digital payment intermediaries had immunity from disclosing information to anyone, including the police, except the courts, under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007 and the Bankers Books Evidence (BBE) Act, 1891 which is made applicable to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

"Section 22 of the PSS 2007 Act, no doubt, permits a payment gateway to keep the documents involved in payment system confidential. Exceptions are carved out in the statute itself. The provision itself carves out that except where such disclosure would be required in obedience to the orders passed by the court of competent jurisdiction or a statutory authority in exercise of power conferred under the statute," the court noted.

Hence, the court said that the investigating officer was a statutory authority, who was acting in terms of the powers conferred under the Code of Criminal Procedure while conducting investigation, and therefore the contention that details could not be divulged could not be accepted. Even the provisions of the BBE Act, 1891 itself made provision for disclosure of information, the court pointed out.

INBRIEF

Vedan's arrest: HC rejects officer's plea against transfer

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday dismissed a writ petition filed by forest range officer R. Adheesh challenging his transfer from Kodanad in connection with the arrest of rapper Hirandas Murali, alias Vedan, for possessing a leopard tooth. The court dismissed the plea on the ground that the proper forum to challenge the transfer is the Kerala Administrative Tribunal. When the petition came up for hearing, During the hearing, the government pleader submitted that he should have approached KAT. Besides, the transfer was not a punitive one. He had been transferred from Kodanad to the Ernakulam Flying Squad Division at Edapally, a place near his residence. The officer said he was constrained to move the court in view of the urgency of the matter. He said his transfer was made in view of the statements given by him to the media following the arrest of Vedan.

Pollachi sexual assault case: All accused get life sentence

Court finds all nine accused guilty of all charges against them; it also ordered that the T.N. government pay a total compensation of ₹85 lakh to eight survivors of sexual assault

Wilson Thomas
COIMBATORE

The Mahila Court in Coimbatore on Tuesday found all nine accused in the Pollachi sexual assault case guilty and sentenced them to life imprisonment for the rest of their lives. Judge R. Nandhini Devi also ordered that the State government pay a total compensation of ₹85 lakh to eight survivors of sexual assault.

The police bring the accused to the Combined Court Complex in Coimbatore on Tuesday. M. PERIASAMY

The convicts have been identified as N. Sabarirajan, 32, alias Rishwanth of Jothi Nagar; K. Thirunavukkarasu, 34, of Makkinampatti; M. Sathish, 33, and T. Vasanthakumar, 30, of Suleeswaranpatti; R. Mani, aka Manivannan, 32, of Achipatti; P. Babu, 33, of Mahalingapuram; T. Haronimus Paul, 32, of Achipatti; K. Arulanantham, 39, of Vadugapalayam; and M. Arunkumar, 33, of Panikkampatti.

They were awarded life imprisonment for the remainder of their natural life for offences committed under Section 376 D (gang rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). They were also punished for offence under Section 376(2)(n) (repeated rape on the same woman) of IPC.

The nine persons had been charged with multiple offences, including criminal conspiracy, sexual harassment, rape, gang rape, and repeated rape on the same women.

The accused were brought from the Salem Central Prison on Tuesday morning amid tight security and were produced before the court. As the court session started, CBI Public Prosecutor V. Surendra Mohan sought maximum punishment for the accused, citing the gravity of the charges against them. Defence counsels prayed for leniency in conviction. The court found them guilty for difference charges, including 376 D and 376(2)(n) of the IPC.

What is the case?

Six years ago, nine men from Pollachi were arrested for blackmailing, sexually assaulting, and videographing young girls and women between 2016 and 2018. The accused, who have remained behind bars since their arrest, were prosecuted for multiple offences.

Rahul Gandhi, Kharge to attend Karnataka govt.'s Sadhana Samavesha in Hosapete

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The Karnataka government's Sadhana Samavesha will be held on May 20 at the Puneeth Rajkumar District Stadium in Hosapete and is expected to draw around two lakh people, including beneficiaries of key welfare schemes, local party workers, and members of the public, according to B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, State Minister for Wakfs and Minority Welfare. "It will be attended by Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar," Mr. Khan, who is also Vijayanagara district in charge, said after inspecting the venue.

Minister for Wakfs and Minority Welfare, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, during an inspection of the venue of Sadhana Samavesha in Hosapete on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

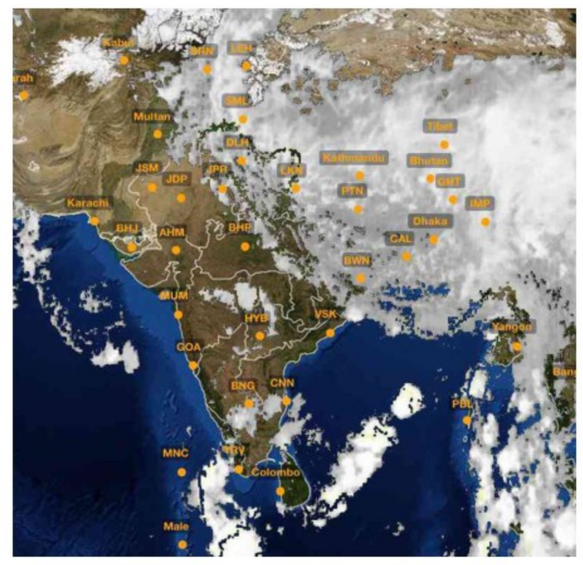
A highlight of the Sadhana Samavesha would be the distribution of entitlement certificates to one lakh beneficiaries on the day, marking it as a 'Samarpana Samavesha' – a ceremony of dedication to public service, Mr. Khan noted.

"Every MLA, party leader and worker in this region will extend full support to ensure the event's success," he added.

The Minister also expressed optimism that a significant part of the crowd would comprise women, reflecting the government's focus on their welfare.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	30	34.0	24.1	Kozhikode	—	35.4	27.5
Ahmedabad	—	38.1	28.5	Kurnool	22	38.4	25.2
Aizawl	10.3	32.0	20.4	Lucknow	—	41.4	26.0
Allahabad	—	42.5	25.6	Madurai	—	41.0	27.5
Bengaluru	7	32.0	21.0	Mangaluru	—	33.8	26.0
Bhopal	—	38.2	27.2	Mumbai	—	34.3	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.4	27.2	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	39.9	23.6	New Delhi	—	40.2	27.7
Chennai	—	37.7	29.3	Patna	—	37.7	26.4
Coimbatore	—	36.8	25.0	Port Blair	—	31.4	25.9
Dehradun	—	36.6	21.2	Puducherry	—	37.0	28.1
Gangtok	113	18.9	16.0	Pune	—	36.5	25.6
Goa	—	35.0	29.0	Raipur	—	41.8	30.9
Guwahati	6	30.1	24.0	Ranchi	—	37.6	24.6
Hubballi	—	34.0	23.0	Shillong	1.2	25.2	17.1
Hyderabad	0.1	38.0	25.4	Shimla	—	29.4	18.5
Imphal	3.4	28.4	20.9	Srinagar	—	25.7	11.5
Jaipur	0.6	40.1	25.5	Thiruvananthapuram	14	33.5	24.8
Kochi	2	33.0	26.4	Tiruchi	—	40.3	28.0
Kohima	3	20.5	16.6	Vijayawada	—	41.5	28.4
Kolkata	—	37.2	24.6	Visakhapatnam	0.7	35.8	27.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	197	53	82	87	
Bengaluru	9	28	32	38	86	
Chennai	.13	20	47	104	77	
Delhi	.10	204	80	136	130	
Hyderabad	9	74	28	69	71	
Kolkata	.13	31	23	80	83	
Lucknow	8	55	60	169	165	
Mumbai	—	1	38	77	99	
Pune	.13	69	24	67	73	
Visakhapatnam	.37	90	46	103	139	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agartala, Tripura recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 330 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, KARNATAKA
No. 16, 2nd & 3rd Floor, Ballari Road,
Sadashiva Nagara, Bengaluru - 560 080.
Phone : 080-2220 5189/93, E-mail : karsec@gmail.com

No. : SECK/ADMN/ETND/01/2025-RLB Date : 09-05-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

An E-tender has been invited through the **K.P.P. Portal (Tender No. : KSEC/2025-25/SE0002)** for the **Services Related to Preparation, printing of Electoral Roll and other Printing works from the Office of the Karnataka State Election Commission. The tender can be Submitted through the E-portal by Dated : 23-05-2025 at 5.30 p.m.**

Details related to the tender can be obtained from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in** or the above Office can be contacted During Office hours.

Sd/- Under Secretary,
State Election Commission, Karnataka.

DIPR/Urban/601/Manipal/2025-26

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notice IFB Nos.03/2.025-26 to 30/2025-26 Dt.13.05.2025

Tender for **28 Nos. of Works** in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam and LLC Division, Ballari under 'Works Category" are invited through 'e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	14.05.2025 at 11:00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time:	21.05.2025 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time:	21.05.2025 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: (upto Rs.50.00 Lakhs)	21.05.2025 at 6:00 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage: (above Rs.50.00 Lakhs)	21.05.2025 at 6:00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: (Above Rs.50.00 Lakhs)	23.05.2025 at 11:00 AM

Further details can be seen
@ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

Ph: 08394 - 259114
Email: seibtbb@yahoo.com

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer**
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
SMART CITY AHMEDABAD DEVELOPMENT LTD

E tender - Request for Proposal (RFP) For Selection of Agency for the SITC of Dashcam along with AI based solution for surveillance of Municipal Infrastructure

Last Date Online Price Bid Submission	**06/06/2025 up to 17:00 hrs**
Last Date of Receipt of Physical Bid	**06/06/2025 up to 18:00 hrs**
Detail & Tender available on	**www.tender.nprocure.com, www.ahmedabadcity.gov.in & www.smartcityahmedabad.com**
Online Submission of Bid on	**www.tender.nprocure.com**
Physical Submission of Bid on Smart City Ahmedabad Development Ltd. (SCADL) Office Address	**Command and Control Centre, Opp. Divan Ballubhai School, Nr. Sanskar Kendra, Paldi, Ahmedabad - 380007.**
Email	**smartcity@ahmedabadcity.gov.in scadl.amc@gmail.com**

FOR ANY AMC COMPLAIN / SUGGESTION CALL 155303

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧೀನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ-2, (ಬಿಎಂಐಸಿಪಿ),
ನಂ. 14/3, ಸಿ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ಅರವಿಂದ ಭವನ,
1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560001.

ಸಂ: ಕೆಐಎಡಿಬಿ/ಎಲ್‌ಎಕ್ಯೂ/418/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.05.2025

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬೆಳವಂಗಲ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹುಲಿಕುಂಟೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಮಂಕನಾಳ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಡತಿಪ್ಪನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 1012-29.08 ಎಕರೆ/ಗುಂಟೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಕೆಐಎಡಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1966 ಕಲಂ 28(4)ರಂತೆ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಿಐ 29 ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಕ್ಯೂ 2024 ದಿನಾಂಕ 18.03.2025 ರಾಜ್ಯಪತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿತ ದಿನಾಂಕ 20.03.2025 ರನ್ವಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗಾಗಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಐಎಡಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಕಲಂ 29(2)ರನ್ವಯ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 16.05.2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ** ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂದರ ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

"ಶ್ರೀ ಅಂಜನಾದ್ರಿ ಭವನ" (ರಾಜ ಮಹಲ್)
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬೆಳವಂಗಲ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ-ದಾಬಸ್‌ಪೇಟೆ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ,
ರಾ.ಹೆ-207, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-561204

ಆದುದರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.05.2025 ರಂದು** ನಡೆಯುವ ಭೂದರ ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ಖಾತೆದಾರರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಹಾಜರಾಗಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ-2, ಕೆಐಎಡಿಬಿ(ಬಿಎಂಐಸಿಪಿ),
ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/DEVP/MAMS/uniform/CR-03/2025-26 Date: 13.05.2025

Announcement of Short Term Re-Tender

The short-term Re-tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minority for Supplier to supply two pairs of **Uniforms** (One pair of colour and one pair of white colour), two pairs of Socks, Tie & Belts to the students of Maulana Azad Model Schools working under Minority Welfare Department in the academic year 2025-26. Details are given below. Interested bidders should apply through online mode under e-procurement portal.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**13.05.2025**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 853.09 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs.12,79,646/-**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**16.05.2025 at 11:30 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**21.05.2025 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**23.05.2025 at 10:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**26.05.2025 at 11:30 a.m.**
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902/901 080-22535919.**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/635/25-26

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BANGALORE (CCH-44)
P & SC No. 175/2025

BETWEEN:
Dr. Uma Savanoor, D/o. Late B.Subbayya Shetty, Aged about 61 years, R/a.Flat No.B308 Neeladri Mahal, ABC Block, Nandidurga Road, Jayamahal Extn, Bangalore-560046.
...Petitioner

AND:
NIL
...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named has made petition to this Court under Section 276 R/w 278 of Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate and letter of administration in favour of the Petitioner, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule held by Late B.Subbayya Shetty, who expired on 10/03/2025.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this Court No:44, in person or by pleader, duly instructed **on 4th June 2025 at 11 a. m.** inform to show cause against the petitioner failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties of:-

i. Lands measuring 0.01.50 Cents of land in Sy.No.113/2AB1; situated at Padavu Village, Shakthinagar, Mangaluru and the house property at Puttur Town, Dakshina Kannada District.
ii. 0.25.00 Cents of land in Sy No.113/2B; situated at Padavu Village, Shakthinagar, Mangaluru and the house property at Puttur Town, Dakshina Kannada District.
iii. 0.18.50 Cents of land in Sy No.113/3 situated at Padavu Village, Shakthinagar, Mangaluru and the house property at Puttur Town, Dakshina Kannada District.
iv. 0.03.50 Cents of land in Sy No.113/4P1; situated at Padavu Village, Shakthinagar, Mangaluru and the house property at Puttur Town, Dakshina Kannada District.
v. House property situated at Puttur Town, Dakshina Kannada District.
vi. Saving Bank Account in Karnataka Bank, Malleswaram Branch, bearing S/B Account. No: 9992505017979401.IFSC Code No.KARB0000055.
vii. Saving Bank Account in Canara Bank, Nandidurga Road Branch, bearing S/B Account No: 0793101032440. IFSC Code No.CNRB0000793.
viii. Saving Bank Account in Canara Bank, Nandidurga Road Branch, bearing S/B Account No: 0793101020080. IFSC Code No.CNRB0000793.
ix. Saving Bank Account in Canara Bank, Nandidurga Road Branch, bearing S/B Account No: 01002030002930. IFSC Code No.CNRB0000793.
x. One Gold Chain of Sri. B. Subbayya Shetty.
xi. a. One pair of Diamond Earring.
b. Two Bangles.
c. One Gold Chain.
xii. Swift Dzire Tour Diesel Car (white) bearing Registration No. KA 04MN 9211.
xiii. All the movables in the house/flat (Nandidurga) furniture, kitchen wares and utensils, electrical & electronic appliances, etc.

Given under my hand & seal of the Court, this 2nd day of May 2025.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE:
Mr. V. Balakrishna & Ms. Syeda Shehnaz.
Advocates.
G-1, Royal Manor, # 70/1, SRT Road, [Cunningham Road], Bangalore-560 052.
Mobile : 9844005094

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Aeronautical Development Agency
(Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PB No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017

Advt. Reference No. ADA: ADV-132:2025 **12-05-2025**

RECRUITMENT OF PROGRAMME BASED MANPOWER ON LIMITED TENURE CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

ADA is a Society and an Autonomous Organization under the Department of Defence Research & Development (R&D), Ministry of Defence (MOD), Govt. of India. ADA is in need of Programme based manpower on limited tenure contract appointment. The details on vacancy, age, remuneration etc. are mentioned below:

Post	Vacancy	Age Limit	Minimum Experience	Gross Salary per month (Rs.)
Project Admin Assistant (PAA)	09	35	3 Years	35,220/-
Project Senior Admin Assistant (PSAA)	06	45	6 Years	47,496/-
Project Admin Officer (PAO)	04	50	10 Years	59,276/-
Project Technical Assistant (PTA)	02	35	Nil	35,220/-
Project Senior Technical Assistant (PSTA)	02	45	3 Years	50,224/-
Total Vacancy	**23**			
Note: Relaxation in upper age limit allowed as per rules.				

2. For complete details of the advertisement notification including minimum educational qualifications, nature of experience required, reservation, registration & submission of applications / uploading of documents on ADA website, interested candidates may please log on to ***https://www.ada.gov.in***

3. Application submission on ADA website will be accepted from **15th May 2025 till 1700 Hrs** on **13th June 2025.**

4. Genuine queries (if any) on the advertisement should be sent by e-mail (only) to ***admin-hr.ada@gov.in***

Sr Admin Officer Gr-II, ADA

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार
सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग
(क्रियेटिव)

संख्याः-117/सू.एवंज.सं.वि. (क्रियेटिव)-06/2024
लखनऊः दिनांक 13 मई, 2025
जेम बिड निरस्तीकरण सूचना

इस कार्यालय के पत्र संख्याः-90/सू.एवंज.सं.वि.(क्रियेटिव)-06/2024 दिनांक 27.01.2025 द्वारा उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की जनकल्याणकारी योजनाओं, उपलब्धियों नीतियों तथा विकास कार्यक्रमों का प्रचार-प्रसार कराये जाने संबंधी कार्य के दृष्टिगत क्रियेटिव एजेंसी के चयन हेतु आमंत्रित जेम बिड संख्या-GEM/2025/B/5866137 दिनांक 24.01.2025 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से एतद्वारा निरस्त किया जाता है।

(विशाल सिंह)
सूचना निदेशक

RO. No.:233678 **Dt:13/05/2025** **www.up.gov.in**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
Mail i.d seccbbsr@gmail.com
E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.04 of 2025-26
No.2367(Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 8th May-2025

The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for two number road works to be received in online bidding, double cover system as detailed in: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **5.00 P.M. of 19.05.2025 to 5.00 P.M of 02.06.2025.** The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at **11.00 A.M. of 03.06.2025** in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.** Addendum/Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer,
Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar
B-121 OIPR-34156/11/0029/2526

Prime message

India must mobilise global opinion against Pakistan's nuclear threats

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation on Monday night and his visit to the Adampur base of the Indian Air Force in Punjab on the frontlines with Pakistan on Tuesday were reassuring for the nation that has been in the midst of a volatile conflict. Mr. Modi reiterated India's revised strategy of responding to terrorism with clarity and resolve. For one, India is no longer willing to concede the fig leaf of an explanation often offered by Pakistan that terrorists were non-state actors acting independently of the state. Operation Sindoor is ongoing, but it is also a continuation of this new strategic approach which earlier manifested, less successfully, in the surgical strikes of 2016 and Balakot airstrikes of 2019. India is willing to engage with Pakistan diplomatically, but only on the central and relevant question of terrorism emanating from that country and the status of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Mr. Modi also made it clear that India would stay the course on the decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty. Though Mr. Modi did not directly join issue with U.S. President Donald Trump on his claim that his administration brokered the understanding between New Delhi and Islamabad, he was categorical in his assertion that India would be guided entirely by its national interest in deciding its future course of action. Further moves by India will depend on how Pakistan responds to the changed approach of India and the new realities.

Mr. Modi's visit to Adampur, 100 km from the border and also a site of India's Russian-made S-400 air defence system, disproved Pakistan's claim that the base was hit during the recent military face off. That said, there is a need to insulate strategy from populist sloganeering and primetime TRP wars. India's stakes are high, and they must not be held hostage by the designs of Pakistan's terrorists, which are of course unacceptable. Quiet diplomacy and covert operations may not be suitable for TRP media wars but can be extremely useful in the pursuit of the country's strategic interests. While India should not be unsettled by Pakistan's nuclear sabre-rattling, it is also time India took the lead with other partner countries to start a new global conversation on the risks of nuclear weapons. The dangers of a nuclear conflict are far too serious to be ignored, and discussions within India and the world should be cognisant of that. While India's position against third-party interference in India-Pakistan relations is a historically established position, it must also build global opinion against Pakistan's strategy of terrorism and nuclear blackmail.

Big deal

The U.S.-China trade deal will have implications for India

The trade agreement between the U.S. and China, the two biggest economies in the world, serves as a breather in an otherwise tense global trade environment. The U.S. has agreed to temporarily lower, for 90 days, its overall tariffs on Chinese goods from 145% to 30%, while China will cut its tariffs on American imports from 125% to 10%. Markets across the world cheered the announcement, jumping between 2%-3.8% following the news. The thaw comes on the back of tensions and tariffs being ratcheted up by both sides, starting with U.S. President Donald Trump's February 1 announcement of a varying tariff on imports from China, Mexico and Canada. Notably, he excluded China from the 90-day pause on 'reciprocal' tariffs announced in early April. One way to look at this latest development is that it shows Mr. Trump is backing down from his tariff war-footing, acknowledging the importance of China to the U.S. economy. Indeed, the joint statement by both countries begins by mentioning "the importance of their bilateral economic and trade relationship". However, another view is that his heavy-handed approach has succeeded in convincing China to come to the negotiation table. Tariffs of 145% were unsustainable but served their purpose. The fact also is that Mr. Trump's main grievance, of a ballooning trade deficit with China, remains unaddressed. The two sides have agreed to continue talks, which will be key in determining whether this seemingly intractable problem can be worked around or result in tensions again.

For India, this brings both uncertainties and certainties. If further talks between the U.S. and China are successful, investors who have moved to other countries will likely start viewing China favourably again. The advantages of manufacturing there – scale and costs – are still significant. The China+1 model, which India in any case has not been able to leverage adequately, might start to lose its sheen. The other uncertainty is around India's own trade talks with the U.S. It has now informed the World Trade Organisation of potential reciprocal measures to the U.S.'s increased duties on steel and aluminium imports. Even though talks on a U.S.-India trade deal are ongoing, this latest statement shows that tensions remain high. The certainties are two-fold. The first is that India's trade deficit with China remains vast and rising, and the U.S.-China agreement will not reduce this. 'Make in India' is currently inextricably linked to 'Import from China'. The second certainty carries over from the first. The Centre must lean heavily on States to adopt labour and land reforms that can allow scalable manufacturing to become cost-effective here. Without this, India will remain dependent on Chinese imports, regardless of its dealings with the rest of the world.

In India, education without employment

Gautam R. Desiraju

is Professor Emeritus, Indian Institute of Science and Distinguished Professor, UPES Dehradun, with a citations-to-publications ratio of 102.5

Mirle Surappa

is INSA Senior Scientist at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, former Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, former Director, IIT Ropar and former Dean, Indian Institute of Science

In defending the educational policies of the present government, it has been claimed that education has been freed from the shackles of previous governments: Atal Tinkering Labs, coding right from middle school, the recruitment of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe teachers, and the empowerment of Muslim girl students. But primarily, it is stated that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 "will enable an educational renaissance".

In all these utterances, the seminal point that is forgotten is that our educational system remains clueless about the shape-shifting marketplace – namely, the employability of our graduates as a workforce.

Education has many purposes. It enables, it enervates and elevates. As Vivekananda said, education empowers one to stand on one's own feet. After 75 years of foolishly gambling excellence for equity, India has squandered both. Young people are unable to find meaningful employment that is commensurate with any training that they may have received. The degrees they have are not worth the paper on which they are printed.

It is irrelevant that these problems were created or ignored by the Congress pot or the Bharatiya Janata Party kettle. The present lawfully elected government has the responsibility to cleanse these Augean stables. Never mind that the NEP 2000 is the fourth such document that was supposed to do this after the Radhakrishnan Commission (1948); the Kothari Commission (1966) and the Officers' Commission (1985).

A good education is one with an optimum of depth and breadth. Depth alone imparts the technical expertise for employability. Breadth provides flexibility in a rapidly changing Artificial Intelligence-driven ecosystem, where those in the job market need to constantly re-train themselves to avoid extinction.

A high rate of educated unemployment

There is barely any evidence, four years on, that any of the NEP recommendations have been put into effect. In 2025, India's overall graduate employability rate is 42.6%, which is practically the same as the 44.3% of 2023. Similarly, knowledge-intensive employment in the year 2023 only stands at 11.72%. Multiple entries and exits, a hallmark of NEP, have only created low-quality and poorly paying e-commerce jobs.

The high rate of educated unemployment today shows that education in India is actually disempowering students. The NEP is a retreat to the Vannevar Bush model of the mid-20th century U.S. without its financial cushioning. The NEP is outdated and financially unviable in the India of 2025. With lip service paid to 'new' ideas such as Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), mother tongue learning, changing history textbooks, flexible curricula and a complete absence of methodology to effect its recommendations, the NEP is a dead fish in the water. It depends on course choice alone to correct imbalances, notwithstanding that the course content itself may be unworkable. It is noteworthy that there was not a single member from industry or the business sectors in the committee that drafted the NEP.

> The educational system is clueless about the employability of India's graduates as a workforce

A good university seamlessly integrates breadth with depth. It is claimed that there has been a remarkable improvement from the past in that 11 Indian universities are ranked in the top QS World University Rankings (WUR) 500, clearly echoing the selective narrative of Nunzio Quacquarelli, CEO of QS, who was generous in his praise of India, while releasing WUR 25. Mr. Quacquarelli quoted the 318% increase in the performance of Indian universities, as the highest growth among the G-20 nations, quietly avoiding mention of both India's low ranking (above 100) and low publication quality. To wit, India's Category Normalized Citation Impact (CNCI) rank (an indicator of publications quality) during 2008-19 which was 17th among 19 countries in the G-20, inched up admirably to 16th position in 2024. Such 'increases' have been touted by the Ministry in its Press Information Bureau press release of February 13, 2025. It has also been claimed that this is the year when Indian universities showcased the highest performance improvement among all G-20 nations. It is unbelievable that in this digital era, the government has failed to recognise and understand the commercial implications of QS, THE and similar agencies and the reasons for their skewed and deceptive analyses.

A missing transparency on projects

Mega research projects were carried out with great fanfare and amidst a media blitz in the past. These included the New Millennium project (CSIR-NMITLI), the $10 Akash tablet project, and the IMPRINT (IMPacting Research INnovation and Technology) project (MHRD).

These projects were in the limelight for years, but the public is not aware of the emergence of the intended products or processes from these projects, on which hundreds of crores of taxpayer money has been spent. It does not matter whether these projects were initiated or shut down by the Congress or the BJP. What we, as taxpayers, want to know is if these projects were value for money.

India's Global Innovation Index (GII) represents the innovation capabilities of India. Our ranks in 2014, 2015 and 2024 were 76, 81, and 39. Malaysia and Türkiye lead India in GII with ranks of 33 and 37, respectively. The GII reveals the world's top S&T clusters in two innovation metrics: published patent applications and published scientific articles. India has four clusters with ranks of 56 (Bengaluru), 63 (Delhi), 82 (Chennai) and 84 (Mumbai). The Bengaluru cluster is often touted as an unparalleled rival to Silicon Valley, particularly with respect to the numbers of startups and Unicorns. However, its 56th rank needs to be compared to the sixth-ranked Silicon Valley cluster. In terms of cluster intensity of the top 100, Bengaluru at 94 followed by Chennai at 96, Delhi at 98, and Mumbai at 99 pale in comparison to San Jose-San Francisco (Silicon Valley) at 2 and Cambridge at 1. The number of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications per capita and scientific publications per capita for the Silicon Valley cluster are 7885 and 9211, respectively. The corresponding numbers for the Bengaluru cluster are 313 and 1077. Samsung Electronics (South Korean) is the leading patentee in Bengaluru. No further comment is necessary.

The subject of start-ups

There is no point talking about start-ups, when we do not know what they mean. Start-ups in China, the U.S. and Israel tackle semiconductor technology, how to refine rare earth elements with ecological sensitivity and how to make metformin cheaper. In contrast, our government lauds new apps that hawk food products. India cannot have start-ups without indigenous technology. It cannot have indigenous technology without indigenous science. It cannot have indigenous science without indigenous quality education, sans political agendas. Two-wheeler *kiranas* are not startups.

Contrary to the thinking of the Education Ministry, the University Grants Commission (UGC) remains an instrument of control. It always has been and there is no justification for this antediluvian organisation to have both regulatory and financial control over universities. Can the UGC present a single piece of hard data showing that changes in pedagogy and syllabus have had a positive effect? In other words, how relevant are these changes, if any, to industry, skilling, and employability? India would probably be better off if the UGC was shut down. Sitting UGC chairs, vice-chancellors, directors and ministers need not appear in national dailies peddling their policies and propaganda ad nauseam. Their job is to execute policy, not talk about it, and to ensure decent employability for the youth. It is our job, as independent academics, to write in the newspapers, if they do not do their job.

"When stupidity is considered patriotism, it is unsafe to be intelligent" – Isaac Asimov

The views expressed are personal

Ecology is the world's permanent economy

P. Ragavan

is a scientist with an interest in taxonomy, ecology and the biogeochemistry of mangroves and seagrasses. He is working on the conservation and management of mangroves and carbon dynamics in the blue carbon habitats of India

The phrase, "Ecology is the permanent economy", made popular by environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna, is much more than a slogan. It is a profound reminder of the foundational truth that human prosperity is inextricably linked to ecological health. It is true that economic development without exploiting natural resources and economic stability without conserving them are impossible. As we face serious challenges such as climate change and the rapid loss of biodiversity, we must ask ourselves whether we have truly understood and embraced this idea.

Striking the right balance

Understanding nature's complexity is at the heart of science. In this pursuit, humans have made tremendous efforts through observation, experimentation, and modelling, as this understanding is crucial for addressing environmental challenges such as climate change and for informing sustainable practices. While these scientific discussions are valuable, there is an even more urgent and fundamental truth we need to focus on: ecology is the real economy – our survival, security and progress depend on it. In simple terms, this might be the clearest way to define sustainability – finding the right balance between protecting the environment and supporting economic development. Without this balance, neither the environment nor the economy can thrive in the long run.

Despite being part of the animal kingdom, human evolution, through the course of civilisation, has led to a growing disconnection from nature. This disconnection with nature has been identified as a reason for the ongoing biodiversity loss (the recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services or IPBES Transformative Change report).

In the early stages of human history, a nomadic lifestyle compelled individuals to rely on and exploit natural resources solely for their basic, day-to-day survival needs. Over time, this individual-centric resource use evolved into collective consumption aimed at meeting the needs of growing communities. As human societies expanded and organised themselves into nations, this demand scaled further to cater to the needs of entire countries. Eventually, this progression gave rise to global competition, where nations began to exploit nature not only to satisfy present demands but also to secure resources for future development. Unlike humans, no other species in the animal kingdom exhibits this pattern of large-scale, anticipatory exploitation of natural resources. Other animals live in harmony with their environments, taking only what they need for immediate survival, without disturbing the long-term balance of the ecosystems they inhabit.

> Acknowledging this principle will lead to a focus on ecological health as the basis for human survival, economic stability and climate resilience

New complications

The ever-intensifying cycle of human consumption and global competition has placed an unprecedented strain on the planet's ecosystems and significantly accelerated the pace of climate change – a natural phenomenon now dangerously amplified by human activities. In response to these growing environmental challenges, nature-based solutions have been widely advocated in global conservation efforts. These approaches aim to leverage the inherent resilience of ecosystems to mitigate climate impacts, restore biodiversity, and support sustainable development. However, a paradox emerges: we continue to exploit nature to satisfy our needs and greed, while simultaneously relying on the same natural systems to act as a buffer against the consequences of such exploitation. This dual dependence risks creating deeper ecological imbalances and may further complicate the ability to address the climate crisis effectively.

In this context, rather than merely attempting to understand the intricate complexity of ecological systems from a scientific standpoint, it is far more critical to recognise a fundamental truth – that ecology is the permanent economy. Acknowledging this principle shifts our perspective from short-term exploitation to long-term stewardship, positioning ecological health not as a constraint, but as the very foundation of human survival, economic stability, and climate resilience.

This realisation is not just timely – it is essential to confronting the ongoing environmental crisis and shaping a sustainable future. It is only through this reframing that humanity can move from reactive conservation to proactive planetary sustainability. The climate crisis is not just a scientific challenge. It is a moral and existential reckoning with the ecological foundations of our existence.

The need to reconnect with nature

Climate change and change in distribution patterns of biological diversity are not new for planet earth. However, the rate at which it is now occurring is detrimental to the planet's biological diversity, including people, due to past unsustainable developmental activities by humans. Therefore, the change we need must come from within.

Since all developmental activities across the globe are aimed at fulfilling human needs, adopting a sustainable lifestyle is every individual's responsibility in order to ensure the success of global sustainability initiatives. To achieve this, we must realise that humans are an integral part of nature.

Though technological advancements have distanced modern lifestyles from nature, one unique natural trait that humans possess is the power to reconnect with nature using emotion (which still lives within us). Thus, future conservation efforts should be designed to strengthen our emotional bond with nature. To ignite this, a realisation that "ecology is the permanent economy", is more imperative than merely understanding the ecological complexity that exists in nature.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Media coverage

In the lead-up to Operation Sindoor, during its conduct and aftermath, the media should have shown — and even now — more restraint, responsibility and caution. 'What-if' scenarios should not be explored. Details about the weapons systems should not be exposed. What Operation Sindoor has done is enough and satisfactory. We do not need to go in for an overkill and think of 'destroying the enemy'.

The fact is that Pakistan is a state split between the political leadership, the military and the terrorist apparatus. Operation Sindoor has taught Pakistan a hard lesson. Added to this is the Indian Prime Minister's line that has outlined India's future response.

S. Kamat,
Mysuru

Online toxicity

It is shocking and disheartening that online trolls seem to spare no one. Such behaviour not only reflects the toxic side of online discourse but also endangers the very idea of free and peaceful expression in our democracy.

Such toxic behaviour should not be normalised or ignored. It is time that the authorities take stringent action against such merchants of hate who encourage online harassment.

Md. Sabir Hussain,
Arrah, Bihar

Court's line

The line of the Supreme Court, that if two adults have a long-standing live-in relationship one can presume an implied consent of the parties in such a relationship, may not be right. The right conclusion would be that the relationship had blossomed into a marriage. Otherwise the relationship may degenerate into a licentiousness with hardly any protection to the woman and dignity to such a relationship. This is the blind spot in the Court's line. It must be revisited with greater scrutiny.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

A death that spotlights irrigation problems

Lisa Mariam Varkey

Senior specialist, Socio-Economics, International Rice Research Institute

On March 13, 2025, Kailash Arjun Nagare, a 2020 Young Farmer Award recipient, from Maharashtra, died by suicide, citing unaddressed irrigation demands. While India reports the highest water usage in agriculture globally, access to water for irrigation remains a contentious issue. Nagare's death points towards the inequity in distribution, with social inequalities, water governance mechanisms, and policies determining the contours of allocation. The problem of water scarcity in India is thus multifaceted, indicating the co-existence of actual physical shortage with economic scarcity due to inequitable access and management.

Untenable expansion

The agricultural sector accounts for almost 80% of the water withdrawal in India. Every year, 688 billion cubic metres of water is consumed by the farm sector, the highest in the world. Irrigation is an inevitable input for increasing agricultural production. However, its expansion has been highly untenable. The majority of the area under water-guzzling crops such as rice, wheat, and sugarcane is currently in the water-scarce north-west and sub-tropical belts of the country. According to a study published in Nature Water (2024), India alone accounted for 36% of global unsustainable irrigation expansion that happened between 2000 and 2015, with environmental and socio-economic implications.

Even as irrigation has been proven to drive economic prosperity, various studies have reported that uneven progress has reinforced existing inequalities, between and within States. Considering that ground water is the dominant water source for irrigation in India, property rights, energy pricing policy, and the existence of well-functioning water markets have remained critical in determining water access to farms. Accordingly, while inequity has declined in canal, tank, and well irrigated systems, it has increased in the tube well irrigated system. Marginalised groups, especially women, are also disproportionately affected by increasing deprivation and decline of water tables with climate change intensifying disparities.

The environmental and financial consequences of aggressive groundwater extraction have also been profound. Due to over extraction, almost 17% of India's groundwater assessment units are deemed 'over-exploited' while 3.9% are in a 'critical' state. Intensive pumping has also resulted in massive energy consumption resulting in excessive carbon emissions. As per the latest data, 45.3–62.3 MMT of annual carbon emissions is attributed to groundwater irrigation, which constitutes 8-11% of India's total carbon emissions.

The operating efficiency and water use efficiency has also remained sub-optimal in Indian agriculture. While irrigation systems in India report an operating efficiency of 38%, in developed countries it is 55%. Coupled with misaligned cropping patterns and inefficient water use practices, irrigation water productivity (IWP) has also remained low in the major irrigation belts of the country. For example, Punjab, which claims the highest land productivity in rice, has one of the lowest IWPs for the crop. Similarly, in sugar cane, Tamil Nadu records the highest land productivity with IWP being dismally low. Besides water wastage, the adoption of non-optimal water management practices have been causing other negative externalities such as high GHG emissions as well. For example, with continuous flooding of rice as the major water management practice, paddy rice is the biggest contributor to global cropland emissions.

Considering the over-exploitation of ground water resources, impending water scarcity and environmental externalities, further attempts to improve the irrigation system of the country should be built on efficient water-saving technologies, improved irrigation efficiency, and alternative sources of irrigation.

The way forward

While change in cropping patterns and ground water usage regulations through policy decisions should also be aimed at in the medium and long term, advancing irrigation technologies and practices based on sustainable intensification should be prioritised. Better irrigation efficiency may be aimed through the improvement of conveyance and application efficiency of irrigation systems. In geographies where water withdrawals and GHG emissions have been highest, alternative water management technologies such as alternate wetting and drying, which can result in significant water saving and reduced emissions, may be popularised. Similarly, micro-irrigation systems such as drip irrigation, with minimal application losses, may be popularised in crops such as sugar cane. Promoting solar-powered irrigation and/or bundling solar pumps with micro-irrigation systems is another promising option. However, with the marginal cost of pumping being zero, this should not result in increased groundwater depletion and should be regulated through initiatives such as assured grid connection offering economic incentives for efficient utilisation. Rain water harvesting structures and tail water storage pits may be popularised as supplementary irrigation sources. Since traditional supply-based mechanisms do not necessarily promote equitable distribution of irrigation water, initiating demand-driven allocation systems run by participatory irrigation management structures should be widely promoted.

It is imperative that India strengthens its knowledge, regulations, policies and programme to rationalise the use of its limited water resources

Justice comes closer to Rayalaseema

The High Court Bench in Kurnool will help both the people and the NDA

STATE OF PLAY

Hareesh P.
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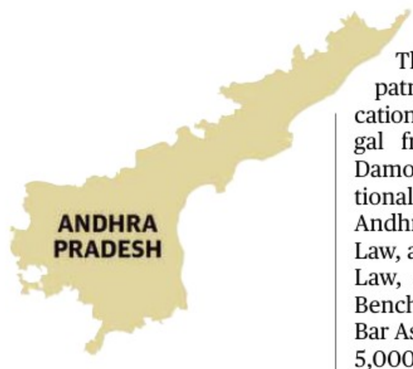
The Andhra Pradesh government has expedited the process of setting up the High Court Bench in Kurnool and has identified buildings to accommodate 15 judges. It may be recalled that the State Assembly had passed a unanimous resolution for the setting up of a High Court Bench in Kurnool in November 2024.

The government's decision to set up a Bench in Kurnool has been welcomed by everyone in the Rayalaseema region, particularly those from the legal fraternity, especially given that the previous YSR Congress Party government, which had proposed Kurnool as the judicial capital, had failed to keep this promise due to various legal issues.

Discontented with the YSRCP government, the legal fraternity had viewed its three-capital proposal as a political move to derail the grand project of Amaravati, the capital city mooted by N. Chandrababu Naidu when he was in power between 2014 to 2019. While former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy had promised that the three capitals proposal would decentralise development, he was unable to implement it. Now, a High Court Bench in Kurnool will decentralise judicial administration since cases from Rayalaseema constitute an estimated 33% of all cases in the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Unlike shifting the entire High Court from Amaravati to Kurnool, setting up a Bench is a relatively easy process. Though a virtual mode of hearing had been made available earlier, lawyers from Rayalaseema still had to travel for more than 8-9 hours to file mandatory petitions and regular appeals. Now, petitioners from the four undivided Rayalaseema districts of Kurnool, Kadapa, Anantapur and Chittoor will be able to approach the Bench easily, instead of travelling to Amaravati.



The Bench will serve other purposes too. As there will be cases pertaining to service matters and labour laws, branches of government departments too will soon come up in Kurnool, taking administration nearer to the people. As a senior High Court lawyer explained, both justice and administration will be brought closer to the people.

The setting up of a Bench is also expected to spur commercial activity in the region. Kurnool is connected to other regions by road, rail, and air. The presence of judges and government officials, and visits by senior lawyers from various parts of the country, will propel the growth of the region. The hospitality sector is expected to flourish in the region and add to the potential of the tourism sector in and around Kurnool.

Meanwhile, advocates from Visakhapatnam have also brought to the fore the demand for a Bench in Visakhapatnam. Advocates from north Andhra say that this demand has persisted since 1993 and that they too will raise their pitch for a Bench. They argue that Visakhapatnam houses several educational institutions for the legal fraternity, such as the Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, the Andhra University College of Law, and the GITAM School of Law, and therefore merits a Bench. The Visakhapatnam Bar Association has more than 5,000 advocates, including 1,200 women.

Whether the government considers the demand or not, the proposal is unlikely to be opposed by the legal fraternity from other regions. This is because there are States which have multiple Benches of the High Court. In Karnataka, the principal seat is located in Bengaluru, while additional Benches can be found in Dharwad and Gulbarga. In Madhya Pradesh, the principal seat of the High Court is in Jabalpur while additional Benches are located in Gwalior and Indore.

The NDA government will find itself in an advantageous position if it completes the process of setting up the Kurnool Bench. The previous government's announcement that the High Court and other judicial institutions will be shifted to Kurnool had raised the hopes of the people, but nothing finally came of it. This could also be one of the reasons why last year, in the Assembly elections, the voters of Rayalaseema gave the NDA a clear mandate. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) alone clinched 42 Assembly seats in the region that had, until then, been a stronghold of the Congress and later the YSRCP. The TDP and its allies can now further cement their position in the region by developing it in various ways. The setting up of the High Court Bench is a crucial first step towards this aim.

What war hysteria hides: deaths, destruction, disinformation

Jingoistic online posts calling for war hide the harsh realities of conflicts

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The military escalation between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam massacre has been accompanied by a barrage of misinformation and disinformation. Data shows that concerned citizens, particularly from the border areas, have intensely searched for war-related news since the recent conflict between the nuclear powers started.

Over the past two weeks, public interest in war-related topics surged to the highest levels in recent times in India **(Chart 1)**. Google searches for terms such as 'war' and 'Pakistan' hit the highest point in five years. Searches for the terms 'nuclear' and 'drones' also peaked. This shows a spike in both curiosity and anxiety as tensions kept escalating.

However, many online searches led to events that never actually happened. An examination of the 'news events' that were debunked by fact-checkers following Operation Sindoor shows the extent and nature of fake narratives in circulation. One prominent example was the viral fake news about the 'destruction of Karachi port', shared by a user on X and viewed over 2.5 million times. The image was actually from an Israeli air strike on Rafah in Gaza. Another widely circulated and inflammatory post claimed that an Indian drone had struck an area near a mosque in Islamabad; that was, in fact, a fire accident from the previous year.

A search on AltNews, a fact-checking platform, reveals the many hyper-nationalistic claims that have been circulating on social media handles in both Pakistan and India. These posts have often been accompanied by commentary – subtle or explicit – calling for war. Such commentary tends to obscure the harshest reality of war – its toll on human lives.

A look at the death tolls from past wars and major operations involving India (where reliable data is available) reveals the human cost of conflict **(Chart 2)**. Over 13,140 defence personnel laid down their lives in the J&K Operation (1947-48), India-China War (1962), India-Pakistan War (1965), India-Pakistan War (1971), Kargil War (1999), and Operation Pawan undertaken by Indian peacekeeping forces for the disarmament of the LTTE. In addition, over 26,500 defence personnel were wounded in these wars/operations.

Frequent clashes with hostile neighbours also come at a financial cost, as weapons are amassed over years. Over the past three decades, India has consistently featured among the world's top arms importers. **Chart 3** shows India's position globally. The country has featured in the list of top five arms importers since 2000. India was not in the list of top 10 arms importers only once since 1991, in 1993. Apart from importing arms, India also spends a substantial sum in manufacturing weapons and maintaining the armed forces.

War places a heavy burden on a country's economy and also hampers trade. Sanctions on warring nations often trigger a financial downturn. A look at the figures of countries that are currently at war shows that their GDP growth rate had taken a hit during the conflict **(Chart 4)**. For instance, Russia rebounded from the COVID-19 pandemic with a 5.6% GDP growth in 2021, only to see its GDP fall to -2.1% in 2022 following the start of its war with Ukraine. Similarly, Ukraine's GDP had been steadily growing at around 2-3% annually from 2016, except during the pandemic year of 2020. But the outbreak of war in 2022 caused Ukraine's GDP to plummet to an unprecedented -28.8%. Israel, which has been at war with Hamas since 2023, also recorded its lowest GDP growth in almost eight years in 2023 (with the exception of the pandemic year of 2020).

The real cost of war

The data for the charts were sourced from Parliament Q&A, SIPRI, Google Trends and World Bank

In ruins: A man inspects his house that was damaged by cross-border shelling, in Kotmaira village along the Line of Control in Akhnoor Sector, Jammu and Kashmir. PTI

Chart 1: This shows the interest in terms such as 'war' and related topics in the last five years in India on Google. The value 100 corresponds to the peak number of searches in the given time period

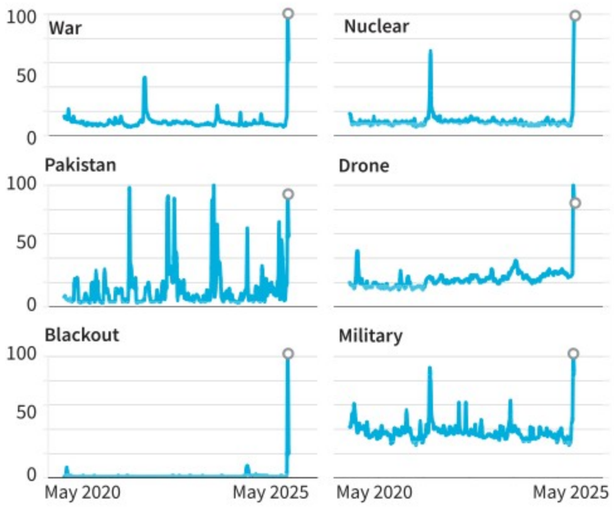


Chart 2: Indian defence personnel killed/wounded in select wars and major operations

	Killed	Wounded
J&K Operation (1947-48)	1,104	3,152
India-China War (1962)	3,250	548
Indo-Pak War (1965)	3,264	8,623
Indo-Pak War (1971)	3,843	9,851
Op Pawan (Sri Lanka)	1,157	3,009
Kargil (1999)	524	1,363

Chart 3: The chart shows India's rank among the world's top arms importers in the 1991-2024 period

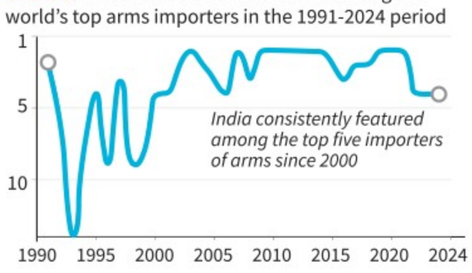


Chart 4: The chart shows the GDP growth rate for select countries that are currently at war. The ● signifies the year in which the conflicts began. For instance, Russia saw its GDP fall to -2.1% in 2022 following the start of its war with Ukraine

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 14, 1975

Talks with Pak. to cover wide area

New Delhi, May 13: The next round of Indo-Pakistan talks that are being held in Delhi this week for keeping the Simla agreement alive are expected to cover a much wider ground than the pending issues relating to the resumption of air services and overflights.

Unlike the last meeting to Islamabad which took place between the civil aviation authorities of the two Governments, the Indian and Pakistani delegations to the latest talks will be headed by their Foreign Secretaries so that they could also take a fresh look at the outstanding political problems.

The Foreign Secretary of India, Mr. Kewal Singh, who had gone to Jamaica for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference, is returning to-morrow, while his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Aga Shahi, will be arriving on Thursday at the head of a fairly high-power delegation. As the two sides meet for the first time after the lifting of the American embargo on arms sales to Pakistan, Iran has been playing a notable role behind the scenes in impressing on Mr. Bhutto the desirability of keeping up the Simla spirit for avoiding a revival of the old tensions in the sub-continent.

The two super-powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, have also been cautioning Pakistan privately against the dangers of snapping the normalisation process which in spite of the painfully slow pace, have kept the door open for bilateral negotiations over a number of issues listed in the Simla agreement. Mr. Aga Shahi is probably coming with a comprehensive brief to engage himself in wide-ranging discussions if only to create the impression that Pakistan is genuinely interested in an overall settlement.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 14, 1925

Railway materials for India

London, May 13: The Barsi Light Railway Company has ordered 5,000 tons of rails and also steel sleepers from the United Steel Companies Limited of Workington for extension of the line to Miraj. Orders for fishbolts and nuts will be placed with Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettleford. It is hoped that subsequent valuable orders for new locomotives, rolling stock and other equipment will be placed with British firms.

From Page One

India reasserts Kashmir stand after U.S. claims

Shortly before India announced the "understanding" to pause firing and military action, Mr. Trump had said in a post on Truth Social on May 10 that the U.S. had mediated between India and Pakistan, leading to a "full and immediate ceasefire". The announcements from the Indian side were made by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar thereafter. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar announced the "ceasefire with immediate effect" the same evening.

On Monday, Mr. Trump elaborated on his earlier statements while interacting with reporters at the White House. "I said [to the Indian and Pakistani leadership], let's stop it. If you stop it, we're doing trade. If you don't stop it, we're not going to do any trade," Mr. Trump said.

"I think it could have been a bad nuclear war. Millions of people could have been killed. So I'm very proud of that," he added.

Mr. Trump, who reached Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, reiterated his offer to promote trade and said his administration brought about a "historic ceasefire" between India and Pakistan after Operation Sindoor. "Just days ago, my administration successfully brokered a historic ceasefire to stop the escalating violence between India and Pakistan, and I used trade to a large extent to do it. I said, fellows let us do some trade. Let us not trade nuclear missiles," Mr. Trump said in a speech at the Saudi-U.S. Investment Forum. He praised Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice-President J.D. Vance for the pause in military action between India and Pakistan.

'Conventional domain'

However, Mr. Jaiswal, at the weekly media briefing, pushed back on the reference to trade and said the Indian and U.S. leaders had held "conversations" since Operation Sindoor commenced on May 7, but "the issue of trade did not come up in any of these discussions".

He said Operation Sindoor was "entirely in the conventional domain", denying Mr. Trump's claims of a possible escalation involving a nuclear scenario between India and Pakistan.

"As you know, India has a firm stance that it will not give in to nuclear blackmail or allow cross-border terrorism to be conducted invoking it. In conversations with various countries, we also cautioned that their subscribing to such scenarios could hurt them in their own region," Mr. Jaiswal said.

India denied the role of a third-party mediator and reiterated that the pause in hostilities as declared on May 10 was worked out between the Directors-General of Military Operations of the two sides during their telephone call that took place at 3.35 p.m.

Mr. Jaiswal repeated India's original description of Operation Sindoor as a move to target "terrorist infrastructure", informing that this was what India conveyed to other world leaders. "We would target terrorist infrastructure operating out of Pakistan. If the Pakistani military stayed out, there would be no problem," Mr. Jaiswal said, arguing that "it is natural that many foreign leaders who heard this from us would have shared it with their Pakistani interlocutors".

3 Lashkar terrorists die in Shopian encounter

The identity of the third terrorist is being ascertained. Kuttay, a resident of Chotipora Heerpora area of Shopian, joined the terror ranks in March 2023. He was a category "A" terrorist and a top commander of the outfit, the official said.

He said Kuttay was involved in several terror incidents and anti-national activities, including the killing of a BJP sarpanch at Heerpora on May 18, 2024.

On April 26, days after the Pahalgam attack, authorities razed the house belonging to Kuttay.

Shafi, a resident of Wanduna Melhora area of Shopian, joined the terror ranks in October 2024 and was a category "C" terrorist. He was involved in the killing of a non-local labourer at Wachi, Shopian on October 18, 2024, the official said.

Southwest monsoon reaches Andaman Sea

Last month, the IMD said India is likely to receive "above normal" monsoon rainfall, defined as 5% more than the historical average of 87 cm.

If this prediction holds true, it would be a second year of "above normal" rain. Last year, India received rainfall 8% above the historical average from June to September.

In 2024, the southwest monsoon set in over Kerala on May 30, two days before the normal date and a day before the forecast date of May 31. It was also unusual in that both branches of the monsoon simultaneously set in over northeast India and Kerala. The two branches eventually merge over central India and sustain the southwest monsoon until the end of September.

"Rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning will likely continue over south peninsular India and adjoining central India for the next five days, with heavy rainfall also expected over Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu this week. Heavy to very heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning is likely over northeast India," the IMD said.

21 dead, 10 critical in Amritsar after drinking spurious liquor

Police arrest 10 persons in connection with the incident; Punjab govt. announces ₹10 lakh each to the kin of the deceased; police probe reveals methanol was used in manufacturing the spurious liquor and the main accused procured it online

Ishita Mishra
AMRITSAR

As many as 21 people between 26 and 80 years of age died and 10 have been hospitalised in critical condition after they consumed spurious liquor in Majitha in Amritsar district of Punjab on Tuesday, the police said.

The deaths have been reported in Patalpuri, Karnala, Marari Kalan, Bhangali, and Therewal villages in the intervening night between Monday and Tuesday.

The district administration deployed medical teams, which went door-to-door in the affected villages to check on people suspected to have consumed the brew.

Preliminary investigation revealed that methanol was used in manufacturing the alcohol that took the lives and that the main accused in the spurious liquor trade, Sahib Singh, procured it online.

"We have arrested 10 persons, including the kingpin of the racket along with several local distributors in connection with the illicit liquor trade and the main suppliers of methanol – a fatal chemical used in industrial products," said Director-General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav.

In tears: Relatives grieve after the death of a man who consumed spurious liquor at Majitha village on the outskirts of Amritsar in Punjab on Tuesday. ANI

DSP, SHO suspended

The DGP said Majitha Deputy Superintendent of Police Amolak Singh and Station House Officer Avtar Singh have been suspended for gross negligence in discharging duties, which resulted in the fatal incident. Departmental inquiries have been initiated against them.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Amritsar (Rural), Maninder Singh said that local distributor Prabhjeet Singh had received methanol filled in 50-litre jerry cans from kingpin Sahib Singh. During questioning, the latter revealed that he ordered methanol from a Ludhiana-based chemical firm, Sahil Chemicals, via an online platform, he said.

The probe revealed that another consignment of methanol ordered by Sahib Singh from a Delhi-based firm is in transit, the officer added. Excise and Police teams have been dispatched to retrieve and seize the consignment as soon as it arrives.

'Won't spare killers'

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said those responsible for the deaths would not be spared. He stressed that such crimes could not be carried out without the political patronage of powerful politicians, and added that this angle was being investigated. "These are not deaths but murders," he said.

He added that links to this illicit liquor nexus had been traced up to Delhi and every person involved in this crime would be put behind the bars. He compared the Amritsar spurious liquor tragedy with that of Taran Taran, and added that the pattern of deaths was similar.

The Chief Minister announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh each to the families of the deceased.

In 2020, a total of 120 people died after consuming spurious liquor in Tarn Taran, Amritsar and Batala. In March 2024, some 20 people died after consuming spurious liquor in Sangrur.

The Opposition parties lashed out at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and the CM for "failing" to control the liquor mafia.

"In August 2020, when deaths occurred due to illicit liquor in Tarn Taran, Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts, you demanded an FIR under Section 302 against the then Excise Minister... Will you now take the resignation of Excise Minister Harpal Cheema? Will you now file an FIR under Section 302 against him?" the Punjab Congress wrote on its X handle.

Push for dams at Arunachal Cabinet meet near border

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet, in its first meeting near the China border on Tuesday, went a step closer to implementing five mega hydroelectric power projects. It approved the formation of NEEPCO Arunachal Hydro Power Corporation Ltd., a joint venture of the State government and the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd., a Central PSU. The company is tasked with implementing five projects in Shi-Yomi district – Heo, Hirong, Naying, and Tato I and II.

Chaired by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, the Cabinet meeting was held at Kibithu, India's easternmost town, about 15 km from the Line of Actual Control separating the State from Tibet, in Anjaw district. The choice of Kibithu, at more than 4,000 feet above the mean sea level, as the venue was significant in light of the India-Pakistan conflict.

The Cabinet approved modifications in the State Hydro Power Policy, 2008, and the Local Area Development Fund Guidelines, 2022. This would allow contribution of 1% of free power by producers on behalf of the State government to local area development funds.

Judiciary must earn public respect, says CJI Khanna

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna indicated on Tuesday that a simple process of weighing the pros and cons, being decisive and letting posterity determine for itself whether he took the right call of duty helped the Supreme Court steer through the two separate controversies of judicial misconduct by High Court judges during his tenure as top judge.

In an informal interaction with journalists at the Supreme Court Press lounge after he held court for the last time on his final day as top judge, Chief Justice Khanna said the judiciary had to earn public respect, not try to command it. He spoke later in the day about the worrying aspect of "truth deficit" in the legal profession, saying it only complicated and delayed adjudication.

During the interaction, when asked about his decision to publish the records of the preliminary inquiry into Justice Yashwant Varma and forward the inquiry committee report to the President and Parliament for action, Chief Justice Khanna said simply, without elaborating, that "judicial thinking has to be decisive. We see the pluses and minuses and decide the issue rationally. The future tells you whether you did the right thing or not".

It was the Chief Justice of India-designate, Justice B.R. Gavai, who elaborated on Chief Justice Khanna's achievements as top judge during a short six-month tenure, which also saw the court deal with the controversy over Allahabad High Court judge Justice Shekhar Yadav's allegedly communal remarks at a programme.

Chief Justice of India Justice Sanjiv Khanna (right) with his successor, Justice B.R. Gavai, at a farewell on Tuesday. PTI

"Chief Justice Khanna showed firm and principled leadership in addressing instances of judicial misconduct. In two such instances, he acted with discretion and resolve, taking appropriate steps to uphold the dignity of the court while maintaining the confidence and trust of his colleagues. His handling of these sensitive matters reflected both institutional responsibility and personal integrity," Justice Gavai said in his farewell remarks to the CJI.

Disclosure of assets

Listing the reforms introduced by Chief Justice Khanna, Justice Gavai referred to the collective decision to disclose the assets of judges, the sharing of the full details of the appointment process of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts for public scrutiny as well as publishing the names of candidates who were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for judicial appointments to High Courts for the past two-and-a-half years, since November 2022. Chief Justice Khanna also kickstarted the process of interacting with candidates shortlisted for the Benches of the High Courts.

In his own speech at his farewell, Chief Justice Khanna conveyed his relief about the apex court having achieved a case clearance ratio of over 100%, reaching 106.6%. "In simple terms, the Supreme Court disposed of more cases than were filed, allowing us to reduce the backlog for the first time in four years," he explained.

"Chief Justice Khanna has demonstrated that impact is not measured by the length of time in office but the depth of one's contributions. His tenure was not about creating a spectacle or making noise for the sake of attention. It was about encouraging changes within the judiciary and ensuring that the system not only functioned but also evolved," Justice Gavai said in his address.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani succinctly compared Chief Justice Khanna to a "river that flowed quietly".

Justice Gavai, who is taking oath as the 52nd Chief Justice of India on May 14, said the role of a Chief Justice of India was not one of power but of profound duty.

Issue of duplication of EPIC numbers resolved, says Election Commission

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday said it had resolved the long-pending problem of duplication of voter ID card numbers and issued fresh elector photo identity cards (EPIC) to those who faced the issue.

The 10-digit EPIC number is issued by the EC to each elector. The number is a unique alphanumeric code assigned to each registered elector to prevent impersonation.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier alleged that multiple voters in the State had the same EPIC number. The Congress too had raised the issue.

EC sources said that in order to resolve the problem of duplication of numbers, the entire database of over 99 crore electors was searched by the Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) of all the 36 States and Union Territories and electoral registration officers of all the 4,123 Assembly constituencies in all the 10.5 lakh polling stations. It was found that on average, about one voter in four polling stations faced the issue of EPIC number duplication, they added. There are nearly 1,000 electors per polling station.

On average, about one voter in four polling stations faced the duplication issue, sources said.

"During the field-level verification, it was found that holders of such similar EPIC numbers were genuine electors in different Assembly constituencies and different polling stations. All such electors have since been issued new EPICs with new numbers," a senior official of the EC told *The Hindu*.

Flagging the issue of EPIC number duplication in West Bengal on February 27, Ms. Banerjee alleged that the ruling BJP at the Centre, "with the blessings of Election Commission of India", was including voters from other States in the West Bengal voters' list.

Two days later, the EC said that irrespective of the EPIC number, a person can cast vote only once at their designated polling stations in their respective constituencies in their States or Union Territories. It had said that it would remove the duplication and ensure that each voter gets a unique EPIC number.

The Trinamool, however, rejected the EC clarification saying it was a "cover-up" and it was impossible for voters in two different constituencies to have the same EPIC number, citing the panel's own handbook.

'Will not impact results'

Every voter's name is on the electoral roll of the polling station where she is an ordinary resident. Having similar EPIC numbers never enabled any such person to vote at any other polling station. Thus, the issue of duplication of EPIC numbers could not have impacted the results of any elections, it said.

SC seeks Uttarakhand reply to contempt plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to examine a contempt petition filed against the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary and other State officials for the alleged demolition of a waqf property in breach of an undertaking given to the court on April 17.

The Union government had, on April 17, undertaken to ensure that there would be no change in the status or character of waqf properties during the pendency of a challenge to the Waqf Amendment Act of 2025.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih issued notice to the respondents, including Uttarakhand Chief Secretary Anand Bardhan and other district and municipal officers.

APPEAL

Aadvika is one year old child suffering from "Malignant Rhabdoid Tumor - Kidney". She needs Chemptherapy, Radiation Therapy and Surgery at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research** Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs. 7,00,000/-. She is from a very poor family and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help her to undergo the treatment. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.**The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C.No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph:044-42137401/31523781/7338978027.**

E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.

Website: WWW.womenswelfaresyndiate.org.

WWS

PM visits Adampur airbase, lauds the troops for Operation Sindoor

With an S-400 missile launcher as the backdrop, Modi says the operation has drawn a clear *Lakshman Rekha* for Pakistan; the location is significant as Pakistan had claimed to have destroyed not only the airbase but also the air defence system

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday from the Adampur airbase in Punjab that Operation Sindoor had drawn a clear "*Lakshman Rekha*" for Pakistan with regard to its sponsorship of terror.

The location of the speech is significant as the Adampur airbase is just 100 km from the Pakistan border. Pakistan had recently claimed to have destroyed not only the airbase but also the S-400 air defence system stationed there. India had rubbished the claims, and Mr. Modi's visit was aimed at countering the claim by Pakistan.

With an S-400 missile launcher as the backdrop, Mr. Modi addressed Pakistan, saying, "Not only have you failed to harm any of India's military installations but you will also be annihilated if terrorism continues from your soil."

The Prime Minister lauded the military for humbling Pakistan in the four-day engagement that resulted in the destruction of nine terror sites and damage to eight military installations. This was his first address to the troops after the initiation of Operation Sindoor.

Addressing the soldiers: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a visit to the Adampur airbase in Punjab on Tuesday. The airbase is just 100 km from the Pakistan border. PTI

'Amazing achievement'

"What you have achieved is unprecedented, unimaginable, and amazing," Mr. Modi said in an over 27-minute speech, which echoed the message of his address to the nation on Monday night.

"Operation Sindoor has now drawn a clear *Lakshman Rekha* for Pakistan," he said.

He also reiterated the "new normal" of India's anti-terror policy, first elaborated on Monday evening when he addressed the nation, that a nuclear blackmail would not hold back India, that an act of terror would be seen as an act of war, and that India would not discriminate between terrorists and their state sponsors going forward.

Mr. Modi toured the base and greeted uniformed airmen who shouted "Bharat *Mata ki Jai*" after he arrived there unannounced early on Tuesday morning.

"When our armed forces take the wind out of nuclear blackmail, our enemies understand the importance of 'Bharat *Mata Ki Jai*'," he said.

"'Bharat *Mata ki Jai*' is not just a slogan, but our soldiers' pledge to dedicate their lives for the nation. When our drones and missiles hit our enemies, they hear 'Bharat *Mata Ki Jai*'," he said.

"The tales of your valour will be etched in history forever. I salute our Army, Air Force, and Navy personnel. You have defeated the Pakistan Army that these terrorists think protect them. We have shown that we will enter their homes and get them," Mr. Modi said.

Slams Pakistan

The patrons of terrorism have realised that casting an evil eye on India will only mean their destruction, he added.

He castigated Pakistan for using civilian aircraft as cover during the exchanges with the Indian armed forces. "You were careful despite their moves, and I can say with pride that you have lived up to expectations," Mr. Modi told the troops.

Adampur is India's second-largest airbase and houses Rafale and MiG-29 squadrons. It has played an important role in the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan as well.

India briefs Foreign Service Attaches on Sindoor; Pak. says its 11 personnel killed

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Defence Intelligence Agency chief Lt. General D.S. Rana briefs the Foreign Service Attaches of 70 nations on 'Operation Sindoor'. PTI

Seventy Foreign Service Attaches (FSAs) were on Tuesday given a detailed briefing by Lieutenant-General D.S. Rana, Director-General, Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), on Operation Sindoor that has set "new normals" in India-Pakistan relations, highlighting India's "demonstrated strength and national resolve through military superiority in the new-age warfare".

Multiple official sources confirmed that the FSAs of China and Turkiye were not invited.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Military announced that 11 personnel were killed and 78 injured during the confrontation with India. They include six Pakistan Army personnel and five Air Force personnel, including a Squadron Leader.

"The DG DIA elaborated on deliberate planning process for selection of targets with confirmed terror linkages. The integrated, precise and prompt response by the Indian armed forces to achieve the stated objectives, executed through intense multi-domain operations, was also highlighted," the Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (IDS), said on X.

China and Türkiye had taken a very open stand critical of India during the entire period, so they were not invited for the military briefing, an official source in the know said.

Battle effectiveness

Synergised force application through jointness and integration achieved in Operation Sindoor with demonstrated battle effectiveness of indigenous kinetic force multipliers was showcased to the FSAs, while highlighting technological superiority of the Indian armed forces in niche non-kinetic domains of space, cyber and electronic warfare, the post elaborated.

Lt. Gen. Rana also mentioned the relentless anti-India misinformation campaign conducted by the adversary and its ramifications on regional peace and stability, the post stated. "Modalities of our whole of nation approach which effectively and swiftly countered the false narrative was also highlighted."

Defence sources said the Indian Air Force (IAF) hitting Pakistani radar sites on the night of May 7-8 played a critical role in ensuring that their air defence networks remained stymied due to the hits or because Pakistan shut off its radars, anticipating more attacks and moved them farther away.

Either way it limited the ability of its air defences which also barely managed to pose a threat as the IAF struck eight key airbases with long-range precision guided munitions, a source added.

Congress seeks PM's clarification over U.S. claims of mediation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ashok Gehlot

The Congress on Tuesday claimed the Narendra Modi government had lost "moral authority" after U.S. President Donald Trump announced the ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

Addressing a press conference here, former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said India lost a "golden opportunity" in teaching Pakistan a lesson for sponsoring terrorism as a state policy.

Mr. Gehlot claimed citizens felt that the Indian armed forces were going strong and could have given a befitting lesson to Pakistan to ensure that it did not harbour terrorists and their camps in future.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation on Monday evening was "disappointing" as he did not clarify on Mr. Trump's claims of mediation.

"What pressure is the government under that the U.S. intervened and claimed mediation," Mr. Gehlot asked as he posed several questions on why the Prime Minister was not responding to claims of the U.S. President since the U.S. has internationalised the issue.

He reiterated his party's demand for a Special Session of Parliament to discuss the issue and a PM-chaired all-party meeting, where the government can spell out its thoughts and policy in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack.

Differing opinion

However, there were differing opinions on the issue of third-party mediation. "Third Party Mediation between India and Pakistan is a reality going back to 1990, call it by whatever name back channelling, brokering, mediating, arbitrating, etc.," Congress Lok Sabha MP Manish Tewari said in a post on X, adding that from 1947 to 1972, India-Pakistan relations "or lack of them whenever they reached a flashpoint were undergirded by UNSC resolutions, 1972-1990 the Shimla Agreement, 1990 onwards Third Party Intervention by whatever nomenclature you are most comfortable with".

"U.S. President Donald Trump is just stating the facts as they are," he added. However, the Congress's official position on the issue questions the government on the issue.

India expels Pakistan High Commission staffer

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Amid continuing tensions between India and Pakistan, the Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday declared an official of the Pakistan High Commission "*persona non grata*", expelling him for espionage.

The decision concerning the official, who was not named by either side, was conveyed to Pakistan Charge d'Affaires Saad Warraich, who was issued a demarche, asking the staffer to leave India within 24 hours. "The Government of India has declared a Pakistani official, working at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, *persona non grata* for indulging in activities not in keeping with his official status in India," the MEA statement said, without providing any details of what the staffer is believed to have done.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the expelled High Commission staffer was linked to two people arrested in Punjab for "espionage activities" by Punjab Police on the weekend for "leaking sensitive information regarding Indian Army movements" to Pakistan. The case is significant given the massive troop movements and cross-border military actions since May 7, including of the Indian Army and Air Force, as well as the build-up of troops along the border.

The staffer was declared 'persona non grata' and asked to leave India within 24 hours

In a statement on Sunday, the police in Malerkotla said that the two accused had been giving the information to a "Pakistan-based handler", and receiving payments through online transactions in exchange.

The police said the network of other local operatives connected to them was also being identified, and a First Information Report (FIR) registered in the case.

"This operation marks a significant step in dismantling cross-border espionage networks and reinforces our commitment to national security. Further investigation will be undertaken as per established protocol, with a focus on tracing the financial trail and identifying additional operatives and linkages within the network," the Punjab Police said in its statement.

Pakistan did not respond to the announcement, nor was it clear whether it would retaliate or try to mirror the action.

Chinese official meets Indian envoy

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

China's senior Foreign Ministry official in-charge of Asian affairs Liu Jinsong met Indian Ambassador to China, Pradeep Kumar Rawat, amid the India-Pakistan military conflict and exchanged views on bilateral relations and issues of common concern.

Mr. Liu met Mr. Rawat on Monday, a press release from the Ministry said.

Capital Region Urban Transport
Plot No-548/1452, Patia, Kalarahanga, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (INDIA), Pin-751024
Email: crutbbsr@gmail.com; Phone No.: 0674-3501580

Notice No. 1099/CRUT Date: 12/05/2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ODISHA YATRI RIDE HAILING APPLICATION FOR A PERIOD OF 3(THREE) YEARS.

Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) invites Proposal from interested agencies for the above-mentioned purpose. Please refer the RFP document for details.

- The RFP document shall be available from **13/05/2025** onwards in following web portal: www.capitalregiontransport.in. **Any further intimation (i.e. Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Responses to the queries/ Clarifications) shall be uploaded in the above website only.**
- Applicants are required to submit duly filled Proposal as per the prescribed formats on or before **28/05/2025 by 5:00 PM.** The Proposals received shall be opened at **12:00 PM** on **29/05/2025.**
- In case of any queries/clarifications, email at crutbbsr@gmail.com
- CRUT reserves the right to accept or reject bid process without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- General Manager(P&A), Capital Region Urban Transport

C- OIPR-13183/11/0041/2526

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 03 Dated: 13/05/2025

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or (Commercial offers) through e-procurement portal are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services/ Equipment:

Tender Nos. as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value in Crores Rs. (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @ 17:00 Hrs.
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0211	Procurement of Bus Body Building Welding Items	0.49	26/05/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0212	Procurement of Automotive Bulbs	1.33	26/05/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0214	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Screw Type Air Compressor and Nitrogen Generation Inflator suitable for tyre filling of passenger Busses on Turnkey basis.	2.00	26/05/2025
SHORT TERM TENDER			
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0213	Procurement of Wheel Bolts, Nuts, Axel Studs	0.56	21/05/2025

Addendum : NIT No. 02 Dt: 28/04/2025. Tender No. : IND209 & IND210 to be read as IND0209 and IND0210.
Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope of work, other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.
NOTE:-Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to **support@eprochelpdesk.com** for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at **cosp@ksrtc.org**, (contact: 7760990225, 7760990224).

Sd/- Controller of Stores & Purchases
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/JA/627/2025-26

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Office: Stores & Purchase Department, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027. **website:** www.bmtc.in
e-Mail: cosp@mybmtc.com/ sobmtcttf@gmail.com
No. BMTC/COSP/STR/SDS/220/2025-26 Date: 13.05.2025

E-AUCTION NOTICE

e-Auction of scrap materials and scrap vehicles are scheduled on 22.05.2025 and 23.05.2025 respectively through M/s. MSTC. Interested bidders may log on to **www.mstcecommerce.com.** For further details and any clarifications contact: M/s.MSTC Ltd., No.19/5, 19/6, 3rd Floor, Kareem Tower, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560 052. Phone Nos: 080-22260054, 22266417, 22287356. BMTC Contact phone Nos: + 91 7760991157.

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं.शार:सीएमजी सिविल: अनुरक्षण: ई–जन निविदा / No:SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-01/25-26 तिथि/ Date. 08.05.2025

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"एसडीएससी शार, सूल्लूरुपेट की पीसीएन, पीएनएन एवं एसएमएन कॉलोनियों में क्वार्टरों एवं सुख–सुविधा भवनों की संरचनात्मक पर्याप्तता के मूल्यांकन हेतु अविध्वंसकारी परीक्षण (एनडीटी)"** (टी/सी–25-006, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 12.70 लाख), **"एसडीएससी शार, वीएबी, एसएसएबी सुविधाएं, एसएलपी के लिए संरचनात्मक लेखा परीक्षा"** (टी/सी–25-007, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 24.00 लाख), हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को **27.05.2025** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। इच्छुक निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering; **"Non–Destructive Testing [NDT] for assessment of structural adequacy of quarters and amenity buildings in PCN, PNN & SMN colonies, Sullurpeta, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-25-006, Est. cost ₹ 12.70 Lakhs); **"Structural Audit for VAB, SSAB Facilities, SLP,SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-25-007, Est. cost ₹ 24.00 Lakhs); Tender documents can be downloaded up to **27.05.2025**, **14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.		
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/175/2025-26		**Dt:13.05.2025**
1	Supplying of Equipments for Augmentation of Plant Capacity from 1.5 MLD to 2.5 MLD and Replacement of UV Lamps and Accessories and computerised Maintenance management system at Lalbhag TTP coming under EE(WWM-STP)CV Division.	**Rs. 408.25 Lakhs** / **Rs. 6.12 Lakhs**
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/177/2025-26		**Dt:13.05.2025**
2	Providing, Erection and Commissioning of Biogas Engine with Biogas Blower at 60 MLD STP at Challaghatta Valley coming under EE(WWM-STP-CV) Division.	**Rs. 408.78 Lakhs** / **Rs. 6.13 Lakhs**
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/179/2025-26		**Dt:13.05.2025**
3	Upgradation of Capacity of Tertiary Treatment Plant Cubbon Park from 4 MLD to 5 MLD coming under EE(WWM-STP-CV) Division.	**Rs. 405.00 Lakhs** / **Rs. 6.07 Lakhs**

For all the above works, Last date for receipt of tenders : **28.05.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.**
Technical bids will be opened on: **30.05.2025 at 17.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (WWM-East)

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/637/2025-26

INBRIEF

Air India starts using Mongolian airspace

Air India has started using Mongolian airspace for a few of its North America flights from the national capital as an alternative route for reducing operational costs that have jumped due to the Pakistan airspace closure last month, sources said on Tuesday. Besides, the carrier is having a technical stop in Kolkata for some North America flights from Delhi, they added. With such an arrangement in place, the airline does not have to make a stop in a European city while operating certain long-haul and ultra-long-haul flights from Delhi to North America. PTI

IndiGo flights connecting six airports will resume today

IndiGo on Tuesday said scheduled flights from six airports, including Jammu and Amritsar, will progressively resume from Wednesday. On Monday, the airline had cancelled its flights to and from Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar, and Rajkot for Tuesday. "Each flight is being reinstated with meticulous coordination – ensuring every journey is seamless, secure and on track," IndiGo said in a post on X. These six airports are among the 32 airports that were reopened for civilian flights on Monday after being temporarily shut. PTI

India notifies WTO of plan to impose retaliatory tariffs on U.S. imports

This comes in retaliation for the imposition of 25% import duties on steel and aluminium by U.S.; India says that proposed measures will be in form of a suspension of concessions or other obligations on selected products originating in the U.S.

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

At a time when India and the U.S. are in talks over a trade deal, fresh tensions have emerged as India has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its proposal to impose tariffs on $7.6 billion worth of imports from the U.S. in retaliation for that country raising its import duties on steel and aluminium to 25%.

According to a communication from the WTO, India's reciprocal measures could kick in 30 days from the date it sent its notification to the WTO – May 9. The WTO said it was circulating the communication "at the request of the delegation of India".

The matter first became a point of friction during U.S. President Donald Trump's first term, when in 2018, he had first imposed higher tariffs on steel and aluminium imports. Then, in February 2025, with effect from March, at the start of his second term, he modified this by imposing tariffs of 25% on imports of steel and aluminium and removing all country-specific and product-specific exemptions that most countries had managed to obtain.

India's move to impose tariffs on American imports is in response to the U.S. raising its import duties on steel. REUTERS

India's reciprocal measures could kick in 30 days from the date it sent its notification to WTO

While the U.S. had declined overtures from India in April for talks over the matter, saying these higher tariffs were not safeguard measures but were taken in the interest of national security, India has maintained that they are safeguard measures.

"The measures have not been notified by the United States to the WTO, but are, in essence, safeguard measures," India asserted in its communication to the WTO. "India maintains that the measures taken by the United States are not consistent with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1994 (GATT 1994) and Agreement on Safeguards (AoS)."

Further, it said that since the U.S. did not hold mandatory consultations under Article 12.3 of the AoS, India had the right to retaliate.

It added that "India reserves the right to suspend concessions or other obligations... that are substantially equivalent to the adverse effects of the measure to India's trade".

India further said that its proposed measures would be in the form of a suspension of concessions or other obligations on selected products originating in the U.S., which would in effect result in an increase in tariffs on these items.

"India reserves its right to suspend concessions or other obligations after the expiration of thirty days from the date of this notification (May 9, 2025)," it added.

The communication further said that the U.S. measures would affect $7.6 billion worth of imports into the U.S. from India, on which the duty collection would be $1.91 billion.

"Accordingly, India's proposed suspension of concessions would result in an equivalent amount of duty collected from products originating in the U.S.," it added.

India said it would inform both the Council for Trade in Goods and the Committee on Safeguards of the WTO on "the next appropriate steps".

Not the first time

If India does go ahead with its retaliatory measures, it would not be the first time. In June 2019, India imposed higher tariffs on 28 products from the U.S. after the U.S. removed India from its Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and refused to discontinue its 2018 steel and aluminium tariffs.

The duties – covering $240 million in trade value – were withdrawn in September 2023, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington.

JCI increases MSP of jute to stop distress selling of crop

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has increased the minimum selling price (MSP) of jute from ₹5,335 to ₹5,650 per quintal to discourage distress selling of crops by farmers for the crop year 2025-26.

The JCI officials have also asked farmers not to fall into the trap of middlemen and dealers and sell their crop below the MSP to ensure the growth of the industry.

The new MSP will be applicable from the crop year which starts on July 1 for middle grade jute, and the prices for other grades will also increase in parity.

"For the past three or four years, we have been working with the Indian Space Research Organisation to help understand crop cultivation and environmental factors, check soil quality, moisture, production, and more," Moloy Chandan Chakraborty, Jute Commissioner, said.

He said the authorities were doing active data collection through remote sensing to mitigate problems and make positive changes.

Girls outshine boys as CBSE declares Class 10, 12 results; marginal increase in pass percentage

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Class 10 Board examination of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) recorded a pass percentage of 93.66 and the Class 12 examination 88.39%. The results were announced here on Tuesday.

There is a marginal increase in the pass percentage from last year's in both classes, and girls have outshone boys. In 2024, 87.98% had cleared the Class 12 examination and 93.6% Class 10.

Joyous celebrations: Students celebrating after the announcement of CBSE 12th results at St. Thomas School in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Of the 17 regions in the country, Vijayawada topped the chart in the pass percentage, with 99.6% of the students who appeared for the Class 12 exams clearing all subjects.

In the Thiruvananthapuram region, which came second, 99.32% students passed the examination followed 97.39% in Chennai. Bengaluru, Delhi West, and Delhi East regions have a pass percentage of 95.95, 95.37, and 95.06, respectively.

Of the 21,782 students who appeared from foreign schools, 20,964 passed.

As many as 16,92,794 students had appeared for the examination. As much as 91.64% of the girls who took the exams passed, while 85.7% boys and 100% transgender students cleared the exam. "Girls have done better than boys by 5.94%," CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said in a release. As many as 24,867 students (1.47%) scored more than 95% in the Class 12 examination.

In Class 10, the pass percentage of girls was 2.37% higher than boys. Students from the Thiruvananthapuram and Vijayawada regions secured the best results with 99.79% clearing the exam, followed by Bengaluru (98.9%) and Chennai (98.71%). About 1.92% of the students scored more than 95% marks in the Class 10 examinations.

In Class 12, 1,11,544 candidates scored above 90% marks, and 24,867 scored above 95%. In Class 10, more than 1.99 lakh candidates scored above 90% marks, while 45,516 scored above 95%.

No merit list

"According to the earlier decision of the Board to avoid unhealthy competition among students, the CBSE has not published a merit list. However, the Board will issue merit certificates to 0.1% of the students who have scored the highest marks in various subjects," Mr. Bhardwaj said.

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas recorded the highest pass percentage in both examinations.

There will be supplementary exams for classes 10 and 12 in July. Class 12 students can improve in one subject, and Class 10 students can improve in two subjects in the supplementary examinations.

Goa stampede: probe panel seeks dissolution of temple management committee

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

A fact-finding committee, which was formed to investigate the Goa stampede that occurred on the morning of May 3 during the Lairai Jatra festival in Shirgao, North Goa, has recommended that the Goa government dissolve the Shree Lairai temple management committee.

Show cause notices have been issued to eight former officials from the district administration, police department and the panchayat. The report made available on Tuesday said that the incident was entirely preventable. "The failure on the part of the organisers is concerned with planning and safety, and not taking cognisance of some untoward incidents in the past. More particularly there being wilful non-compliance with administrative safety directives, the committee strongly recommends that the government explore the possibility of dissolving the temple management committee, after following due process of law, if felt appropriate," the report read. "The recommendations provided in the report aim to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future," it said.

'Recommendations in the report aim to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future'

The report said, "The committee has found that the immediate cause of the stampede was overcrowding on the pathway from Tali to Homkhand, particularly at the upper end of the sloped gradient near the RBL Bank Branch, Shirgao, aggravated by the unruly behaviour of the Dhonds and lack of proper crowd control measures at that location."

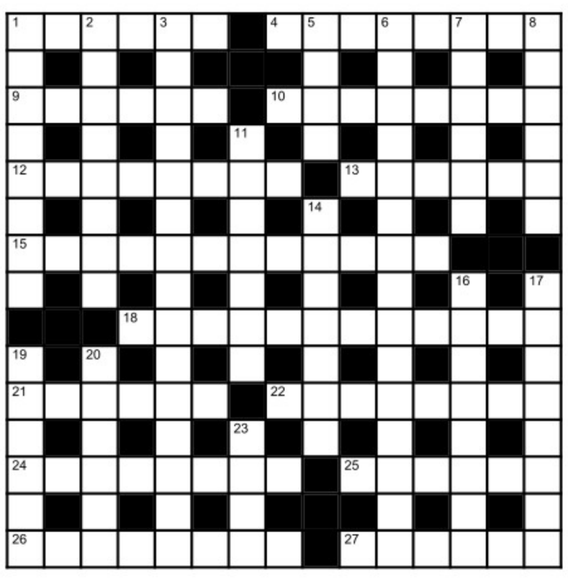
The committee said that it was imperative for the organisers either to carry out a comprehensive risk analysis and preparedness exercise or to cooperate with the authorities and incorporate their inputs in planning and execution. "However, a review of the minutes of all pre-event meetings conducted reveals that the organisers did not provide critical information regarding the expected number of visitors, potential risks based on past incidents, or options for alternative routes. The committee found that the organisers appear to have disregarded specific instructions issued by the revenue and police authorities concerning crowd management, instead focusing solely on the conduct of religious activities," the report said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14484

(set by Pixie Dust)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 This formula was epic! Swear...amazing! (6)
4 A hit is humbling (8)
9 Dry a wet Roan, tied on and off (6)
10 Husband with irritation about boundless love leading to spiritual awakening? (8)
12 It's a trivial sum, we hear to former Vice-President (8)
13 Sneer at casual top and soft shoe (6)
15 Sadly cut my lip, repeatedly in mass? (12)
18 How to make tech order confidential? (3,3,6)
21 A short writer meets a biblical character (6)
22 Ebenezer, for one has no love for a Spanish bum (8)
24 Trend with each custom and disappear (4,4)
25 Scan reels (intermittently fast forwarding) lol! Entertaining from the beginning (6)
26 Research from broken nails, say (8)
27 Rebel maniac touts sandwiches (3,3)

Down

1 Strangely I met Lear! Live... (4-4)
2 Spooner's usual chills in shared rides? (3,5)
3 Extravagant life! Play, act and chat... It's an illusion, literally! (8,7)
5 Solicitor's nib (4)
6 Leo say, reprogrammed 'Cheat with Food Sizing!' (4,2,3,6)
7 Request popular antioxidant perhaps (6)
8 Some stone dragon erected in park (6)
11 A pass year, extremely tame for follower (7)
14 Groan! Notice about credit (card history mainly) (7)
16 Despicable person, say, controls neighbourhood's main croaker, briefly - going up and down (2,3,3)
17 Supporter can be heard with e-book (8)
19 Port city in Germany? Yes, couple of fellows naturally acclimatised from the beginning (6)
20 Plain hard nutmeg bottles brought up (6)
23 Try one whose business is picking up? (4)

SUDOKU

			4	9		6		
9	4							8
	7			2			5	
	2			6		1		4
		4				3		
3		6		1			9	
	9			4			6	
5							4	7
		2		5	7			

No.SS6519 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	A	L	A	D	A	B	A	R
T	■	A	■	R	■	T	■	■
I	M	P	R	I	N	T	S	■
N	■	T	■	L	■	E	■	O
G	O	O	G	L	E	M	A	P
Y	■	P	■	■	■	P	■	U
■	■	■	O	M	I	T	■	S
T	■	C	■	O	■	■	■	E
H	O	L	D	O	U	T	■	R
I	■	O	■	N	■	A	■	O
N	O	V	E	L	■	S	Q	U
K	■	E	■	I	■	K	■	T
E	N	O	U	G	H	■	H	E
R	■	I	■	H	■	■	R	E
S	A	L	U	T	E	■	I	S

A	S	S	O	R	T			
■	C	■	L	■	U			
H	A	N	D	L	E			
■	V	■	L	■	S			
E	L	A	N	D	■			
N	■	T	■	A	■			
S	I	G	N	I	F	Y		
E	■	N	■	S	■			
R	A	R	E	■	■			
■	■	A	■	S	■			
S	Q	U	A	R	E	C	U	T
■	T	■	E	■	C	■	A	■
H	E	A	V	I	E	S	T	■
R	■	E	■	P	■	E	■	■
I	S	O	L	A	T	E	D	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	3	4	1	8	7	5	9	6
8	7	9	5	6	2	3	4	1
1	6	5	9	4	3	8	7	2
3	4	1	2	7	6	9	8	5
6	8	7	3	9	5	1	2	4
5	9	2	8	1	4	6	3	7
4	5	6	7	3	8	2	1	9
7	1	8	6	2	9	4	5	3
9	2	3	4	5	1	7	6	8

FAITH

Devi's sindoor

Sarada, Visalakshi, Kamakshi, Devi, Ambal, Amman, the many names by which our Jaganmata, Goddess, is known, is also representative of our country, especially since the very contour of the nation symbolises woman, with Kashmir being the sindoor, the most auspicious and powerful symbol for a devotee, said Damodara Dikshidhar.

A fount of kindness, slokas celebrate Her as *Vahanti sindooram* (she has sindoor on her forehead), *lalate kashmiram*. Her forehead is Kashmir and Her feet are Kanniyakumari, and She embraces all devotees and offers Her protection to those who repose faith in Her. It is Ambal who can offer peace, both inner and outer. Only when one has faith in Her can one develop inner strength required to face life's many challenges. Sastras tell us what pujas we should undertake and which deity to pray to, in order to emerge victorious.

Adi Sankara's disciple once asked him what one should do during times of danger. The Acharya said think of Devi and sing her verses. Questioning further, the sishya asked, what such *smaranam* (thinking of Her) would bring one. Adi Sankara said all devatas would then work for the devotee, since She is the primordial source of strength and She always responds to prayers, even Siva and Brahma have done so.

Chapter 12 of Devi Mahatmyam says, those who repose faith in Her will be freed from all afflictions and endowed with wealth, grain and progeny through Her grace. The work further states that however difficult a war may be, it is a just one and if warriors and families pray to Her, She will assure them of complete victory.

INBRIEF

LIC increases holding in Bank of India to 8.38%

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India's stake in Bank of India has increased to 8.38%. India's largest institutional investor LIC raised stake in the public sector lender from 6.35% in a period of less than four years. It acquired an additional about 2.02% stake through market purchases between September 2, 2021 and May 9, 2025, Bank of India said in a filing on Tuesday. The bank's shares closed 2.27% higher at ₹112.55 apiece on the BSE on Tuesday.

Aditya Birla Capital Q4 profit declines 30% to ₹865 crore

Aditya Birla Capital, a non-deposit taking non-banking financial company (NBFC), on Tuesday reported a more than 30% decline in consolidated net profit to ₹865 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2025, from ₹1,245.41 crore in the same quarter of the preceding fiscal year. Total income grew to ₹12,239 crore in the January-March quarter of FY25, from ₹10,803 crore in the year-ago period, Aditya Birla Capital said in a filing with the stock exchanges. PTI

Life insurers' new business rose over 8% to ₹21,966 crore

Life insurance companies reported new business premium increased 8.43% Y-o-Y to ₹21,965.73 crore in April. The companies had mobilised ₹20,258.86 crore in the year earlier, the new business premium numbers released by the Life Insurance Council showed. LIC fared better than private players, clocking a 9.91% increase in new business to ₹13,610.63 crore (₹12,383.64 crore). Private life insurers posted a 6.09% rise in premium to ₹8,355.10 crore (₹7,875.22 crore).

Gold prices rebound a day after drastic fall

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Gold prices rebounded in the spot market on Tuesday, a day after a massive fall of about 3% in the global market due to easing of the tariff war and trade tensions between the U.S. and China, the world's two largest economies.

Analysts said ever since the announcement was made, safe-haven assets such as gold faced sell-off by investors.

However in India, as per Indian Bullion & Jewellers Association (IBJA) rates, gold on the spot market was priced at ₹94,344 per 10 grams on Tuesday compared with ₹93,076 on Monday, a gain of ₹1,268 per 10 grams.

In the past weeks, gold prices have reduced to a large extent from the record-high level of more than ₹1 lakh recorded on April 22, 2025, as investors increasingly preferred the safe-haven asset due to global uncertainties triggered by the tariff action of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Comex gold futures declined about 3% on Monday to settle at $3,329 per ounce (28.3495 grams), the lowest closing in nearly two weeks.

"The sharp decline was driven by a stronger U.S. dollar and reduced safe-haven demand following the announcement of a temporary easing of trade tensions between the United States and China," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research, Kotak Securities said in a note.

Retail inflation slows to 3.16% in April, lowest in 69 months

The fall in prices has been driven in large part by sharply easing food prices, especially those of vegetables and pulses.; inflation in food and beverages slows for sixth consecutive month to 2.14%

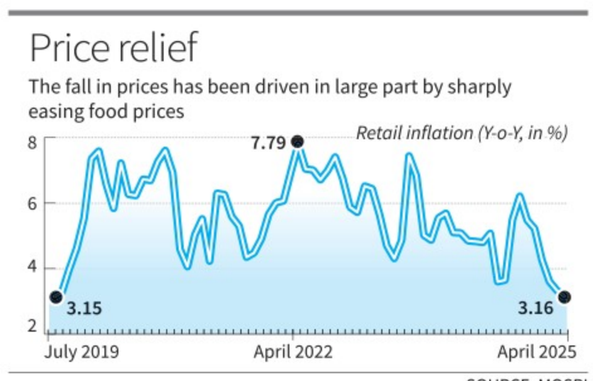
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation in India cooled for the sixth consecutive month in April 2025, coming in at 3.16%, the lowest it has been in 69 months. The fall in prices has been driven in large part by sharply easing food prices, especially those of vegetables and pulses.

The monthly Consumer Price Index released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation stood at 3.34% in March 2025, and had been falling consistently since October 2024, when it had hit a 14-month high of 6.21%. April's inflation figures are the lowest since July 2019. The data shows that inflation in the food and beverages category slowed for the sixth consecutive month to 2.14%, with vegetable prices contracting 10.98%, pulses contracting 5.23%, and meat and fish prices contracting 0.35% over their levels in April last year.

Vegetable prices have been on a downward trend for a little while now, with April's data marking the third consecutive month of price contractions.

However, while prices have been cooling, a large part of this contraction has to do with a high base effect, since vegetable inflation was in the 27-30% range in the February-April period last year.



SOURCE: MOSPI

Markets tank on profit booking a day after record rally

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

NSE Nifty 50 dipped 1.4% to 24,578.35 points, the steepest daily decline in more than a month

Benchmark stock market indices declined up to 1.5% on Tuesday, a day after rallying 3.8% on easing border tensions and tariff war.

The NSE Nifty 50 dipped 1.4% to 24,578.35 points, the steepest daily decline in more than a month.

Sensex, too, slipped 1.5% to 81,148.22 points.

Experts opined that the decline was due to investors booking profits on Monday's rally.

"Technically, after a muted open, the market consistently faced selling pressure at higher levels," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research at Kotak Securities. "On daily charts, it has formed a bearish candle, which supports temporary weakness," he added.

Tata Motors Q4 net halves, set to pay ₹6 in final dividend

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. (TML) reported Q4 consolidated net profit plunged 52% to ₹8,470 crore from ₹17,528 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue remained flat at ₹1,18,927 crore. For FY25, the company's consolidated net profit fell 11% to ₹27,830 crore, while revenue grew by a marginal 1% to ₹4,36,821 crore.

During the year, Tata Motors Group turned net auto cash positive with a net cash balance of ₹1,000 crore, the firm said.

Revenue remained flat at ₹1,18,927 crore.

The board recommended a final dividend of ₹6 per share subject to approval by the shareholders.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,148	-1.55
US Dollar	85.36	0.00
Gold	97,500	0.98
Brent oil	66.73	2.36

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2441.20	15.90
Adani Ports	1369.20	7.10
Apollo Hosp	6917.50	-8.50
Asian Paints	2324.60	-31.80
Axis Bank	1193.60	-9.40
Bajaj Auto	8063.00	23.50
Bajaj Finserv	2018.20	-32.20
Bajaj Finance	9042.00	23.50
Bharat Elec	335.75	12.95
Bharti Airtel	1820.60	-50.20
Cipla	1520.10	8.50
Coal India	395.15	-0.35
Dr Reddys Lab	1207.10	11.50
Eicher Motors	5419.00	-101.00
Eternal Ltd.	231.65	-7.85
Grasim Ind	2708.70	-34.10
HCL Tech	1619.60	-50.70
HDFC Bank	1922.60	-34.60
HDFC Life	735.05	0.45
Hero MotoCorp	4063.60	78.70
Hindalco	634.75	-17.20
Hind Unilever	2360.00	-22.50
ICICI Bank	1430.60	-17.90
IndusInd Bank	770.10	-18.40
Infosys	1568.60	-58.30
ITC	427.90	-7.60
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	267.40	4.50
JSW Steel	989.90	-15.30
Kotak Bank	2115.60	-29.40
L&T	3567.00	-20.20
M&M	3053.80	-50.90
Maruti Suzuki	12482.00	-134.00
NestleIndia	2370.20	-13.60
NTPC	341.50	-7.05
ONGC	241.16	-2.86
PowerGrid Corp	298.45	-10.60
Reliance Ind	1415.70	-20.80
SBI Life	1740.00	-11.50
State Bank	801.75	0.10
Shriram Finance Ltd.	633.60	-12.35
Sun Pharma	1700.00	13.80
TataConsumerProduct	1118.60	-27.00
Tata Motors	707.70	-13.10
Tata Steel	149.43	-2.20
TCS	3515.00	-105.40
Tech Mahindra	1572.50	-0.60
Titan	3563.20	0.30
Trent Ltd.	5326.50	-114.50
UltraTech Cement	11661.00	-75.00
Wipro	251.57	-5.71

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.13	85.45
Euro	94.71	95.08
British Pound	112.68	113.12
Japanese Yen (100)	57.56	57.78
Chinese Yuan	11.82	11.87
Swiss Franc	101.18	101.57
Singapore Dollar	65.27	65.53
Canadian Dollar	60.87	61.10
Malaysian Ringitt	19.68	19.78
Australian Dollar	54.69	54.90

Source:Indian Bank

Hero MotoCorp Q4 net profit rises 24%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Hero MotoCorp Ltd., the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, reported consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 31 rose 24% year-on-year to ₹1,169 crore.

Consolidated revenue grew 4% to ₹9,970 crore.

Consolidated revenue for the year increased 8% to ₹40,923 crore while profit after tax surged 17% to ₹4,376 crore.

The firm reported highest-ever standalone revenue from operations and profit after tax for the year, at ₹40,756 crore and ₹4,610 crore respectively.

EBITDA margin for the year stood at 14.4%, reflecting an improvement of 40 bps in comparison with the previous year driven by a favorable product mix, enhanced cost efficiencies, the company said.

The firm will pay final dividend of ₹65 an equity share.

The company has declared a final dividend of ₹65 per equity share. Including the interim dividend of ₹100 per share, the total dividend for FY25 amounts to ₹165 per equity share, representing a payout of 8,250%.

Bharti Q4 net surges 77% to ₹5,223 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bharti Airtel consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 31 surged 77% year-on-year to ₹5,223 crore while consolidated revenue grew 27% to ₹47,876 crore.

For FY25, net profit rose 55% to ₹17,572 crore while revenue climbed 15% to ₹1,72,985 crore.

"We ended FY25 on a strong note," said Gopal Vittal, vice-chairman and MD. "India revenue rose 6%. Africa continued its underlying performance even as there was steadiness in currency. India mobile business grew by 1.3% sequentially, despite two less days in the quarter.

"Growth was driven by premiumisation. We added 6.6 million smartphone users and maintained an industry-leading ARPU of ₹245," he said.

Bharti prepaid ₹5,985 crore of high-cost spectrum due in Q4.

"Our balance sheet is supported by strong cash generation, disciplined capital spending and ongoing debt reduction. We prepaid ₹5,985 crore of high-cost spectrum dues in the last quarter with prepayment of over ₹42,000 crore in last two years."

MSMEs lack staff, access to formal credit: SIDBI study

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Lack of access to "timely and adequate" credit and shortage of manpower are among the key challenges that Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs) face, according to a Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) report titled "Understanding the Indian MSME Sector: Progress and Challenges".

The report, which is based on a survey of 2,000 MSMEs in 19 sectors, says despite comprehensive policy initiatives, MSMEs do not have access to adequate credit when they need it. About 3% of the total borrowings of small enterprises is from informal sources while the numbers stand at 2% for MSMEs and 12% for micro enterprises.

The report is based on a survey of 2,000 MSMEs in 19 sectors.

According to a press release, the study broadly estimates "the sector still has an addressable credit gap of about 24% or ₹30 lakh crore." The gap is higher in services sector at 27% and higher at 35% for women-owned MSMEs too, indicating a need for targeted policy actions.

Digital tools

More number of MSMEs are likely to adopt digital tools for credit access when supported by platforms such as UPI as 18% of MSMEs use digital lending platforms and 90% accept digital payments.

About a fourth of the surveyed MSMEs cited lack of skilled manpower as one of their major challenges.

Fitch Ratings upgrades Shriram Finance

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday upgraded Shriram Finance Ltd.'s rating saying it reflected a sustained improvement in standalone profile in the recent years, particularly in funding diversity, risk management, portfolio quality and profitability.

Fitch Ratings has upgraded India-based Shriram Finance Ltd.'s (SFL) Long-Term Foreign-and Local-Currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) to 'BB+', from 'BB', with a 'stable' outlook.

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, P.B. Road, Navanagar, HUBBALLI
Tel/Fax No: (0836) 2322771/2324307
Website: https://hescom.karnataka.gov.in
e-mail : seeit@hescom.co.in
Corporate Identity Number CIN: U31401KA2002SGC030437
No. HESCOM /SEE(IT&MT)/IT1/SM/1291/2025-26/3292 Dated: 12-05-2025

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP-portal only)

The Superintending Engineer (Ele), IT & MT, HESCOM, Hubballi invites tender in two parts (Part –I: Techno-Commercial Bid and Part-II : Price Bid) through KPP portal for the following works.

Sl No	Bid Indent No.	Tender Description
1	HESCOM/2024-25/SE0369/CALL-5	Selection of vendor for opening Retail Outlets for sale of Smart Meters on Rate Contract Basis to the Prospective Consumers for arranging Power Supply to New Connections (including Temporary Connections) for a period of 5 years in HESCOM Jurisdiction

For detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by the website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (El)
IT&MT, HESCOM, Hubballi

DIPR/Dharwad/156/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website : www.kimskoppal.com
email :directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523
NO.KIMS/KOPPAL/SUP/TENDER/ 2025-26/98.
Date: 06.05.2025

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION

Koppal Institute of Medical Sciences invites Tenders for supply of Medicine, Syringe, IV Fluids and Security Safety Gates in a two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Tender No: 1.KIMS/KOPPAL/SUP/RE-TENDER/DRUGS/14/2025-26 DATE:06/05/2025. **Particulars:** Supply of Tablet, Capsules, IV Fluids, Syrup, Injections and Surgical Items to KIMS Koppal. **Approx Tender Value (Rs In Lakhs):** 197.77
2.KIMS/KOPPAL/SUP/ SAFTEY SECURITY GATES /2025-26. Date:06.05.2025. **Particulars:** Supply and Installation Training & Commissioning of Web Cloud Based Surveillance access control dual Full Height Turnstile Gate with IT Accessories on Turnkey /Package Basis. **Approx Tender Value (Rs In Lakhs):** 30.00
3.KIMS/KOPPAL/IV FLUIDS & SYRINGE/2025-26. DATE:06/05/2025. **Particulars:** Supply of IV Fluids Items to OBG Department of KIMS Koppal. **Approx Tender Value (Rs In Lakhs):** 49.06
1)Tender documents may be download from the e-procurement portal from 15/05/2025 @ 11.30 AM.
2) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 29/05/2025 @5.30PM.
Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from E-Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and this office web-site **www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in.**
Sd/-Director,
Koppal Institute of Medical Science, Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/83/KSMCA/2025-26

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT
Website: **www.kride.in** | Email ID: **gmprocurement@kride.in**
Date: 12.05.2025

e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.: KRIDE/2025-26/OW/WORK _INDENT34
Design Construction of cast in-situ RCC Box at Channasandra Station location from Ch 24 242 to 24 600 along the Corridor -4 Heelalige to Rajankunte Bangalore.
Last date for submission of bid is **10.06.2025 IST 15:00 Hrs,** for details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- **GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/KRIDE**
DIPR/CP/623/Zen/2025-26
KridePrm Kride Bsrp kride_bsrp KRIDE,BSRP

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer cum Secretary
1st Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

INVITION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Time for Last date & Receipt of tender	Date & time for Opening of tender
1	CAO-S	BWSSB/CH/CAO-S/Est-8/110/2025-26 Date: 13.05.2025	– / –	21.05.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.	22.05.2025 after 4:00 p.m.

Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer cum Secretary.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/RA/634/2025-26

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
District: Shivamogga. e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com
No:ACF/HNR/CAMPA-MONSOON/CR-/2025-26
Date: 13.05.2025

e-Tender Notice (Short-Term e-Tender Notice Through e-Procurement Portal)

Unitwar Tenders are invited through e-Procurement Portal in two cover system from interested forest contractors having minimum of 05 (five) years experience for implementing 12 formation of monsoon plantations works of Approx. Amount Rs. 2.08 crores under CAMPA-OTHERS/NPV Schemes in the limits of various forest zones of Sagar Division for the year 2025-26. Last date for submission of Tender is fixed as: 20.05.2025 up to 4.35 PM. Complete details of works and places are explained in the e-Procurement Portal. For further information this office can be contacted and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/68/05/225

KYIV

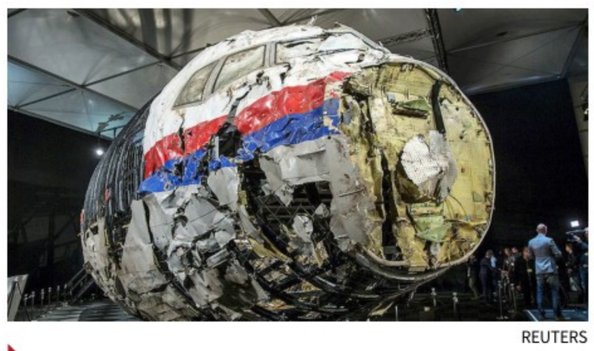
Putin skipping talks would mean Moscow not seeking peace: Kyiv

REUTERS

Ukraine said on Tuesday that if Vladimir Putin skips talks in Turkiye it would be a "clear sign" to the world the Russian leader is not serious about peace. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff made the statement as Moscow declined for the second day running to confirm if Mr. Putin would attend the talks. AFP

MONTREAL

UN blames Russia for the downing of Malaysian flight over Ukraine



REUTERS

The UN aviation agency blamed Russia for downing a Malaysian jetliner over Ukraine in 2014, leading to 298 casualties. The International Civil Aviation Organization, said claims brought by Australia and the Netherlands over the shooting down of Flight MH17 on July 17 of that year were "well founded". AFP

RIYADH

Casting himself as peacemaker, Trump plans to lift Syria sanctions

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he would lift sanctions on Syria to offer it a chance for "greatness" after Bashar al-Assad's fall, as he cast himself as a peacemaker in West Asia. "The sanctions were brutal and crippling," he said. "But now it's their time to shine," the U.S. President added. AFP

BERLIN

Germany bans the largest 'Reich citizen' group, arrests four leaders

AFP

The German government banned the largest "Reich citizen" group, an extremist far-right organisation that calls itself the "Kingdom of Germany" and seeks to undermine the country's democratic order, and arrested four of its leaders. The so-called Reich citizen, or Reichsbürger, movement does not recognise Germany as a state. AP

Saudis bet on U.S. weapons, AI as Trump basks in welcome

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman vows to invest $600 billion in the U.S.; Riyadh will buy arms worth $142 billion; Saudi company DataVolt will invest $20 billion in AI-related sites in America

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia on Tuesday promised billions of dollars in deals with the United States from defence to artificial intelligence as it threw a lavish welcome for President Donald Trump on the first state visit of his second term.

Under imposing chandeliers, Mr. Trump welcomed a promise by Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, for $600 billion in investment and quipped that it should be $1 trillion.

"We have the biggest business leaders in the world here today and they are going to walk away with a lot of cheques," Mr. Trump told the prince.

Deal seekers: Donald Trump and Mohammed bin Salman at a signing ceremony in Riyadh on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

For "the United States, it's probably two million jobs that we're talking about," Mr. Trump said.

The White House said that Saudi Arabia would buy nearly $142 billion in weapons in what it described as the largest-ever weapons deal, although Mr. Trump in his first term trumpeted a larger, longer-term figure.

The White House said that Saudi company DataVolt will invest $20 billion in artificial intelligence-related sites in the United States, while tech firms including Google will invest in both countries – welcome news for Saudi Arabia which has long faced restrictions in U.S. advanced technology.

With cameras rolling, a lengthy procession of Saudi royalty and business figures waited their turn to shake hands with Mr. Trump and the crown prince, including Elon Musk, the world's richest person and close advisor to Mr. Trump, who made a rare appearance in a suit.

India rolls over Treasury Bill worth $50 million to help the Maldives

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Even as the Maldives attempts to stabilise its economy amid challenges of high public debt and a widening fiscal deficit, India has rolled over a $50-million Treasury Bill to support the neighbouring island nation.

In a statement on Monday, the High Commission of India in capital Malé said that following a request from the Government of Maldives, the State Bank of India subscribed to the Treasury Bill, as part of India's ongoing support with annual rollovers of Treasury Bills since 2019. "This has been done under a unique Government-to-Government arrangement, as emergency financial assistance to Maldives," the Indian mission said.

Better prospects: In 2024, the scenic island country saw tourist arrivals reach an all-time high of 2.05 million. AP

Thanking External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Khaleel said on social media platform 'X': "This timely assistance reflects the close bonds of friendship between Maldives & India and will support the Government's ongoing efforts to implement fiscal reforms for economic resilience."

In 2024, the scenic island country saw tourist arrivals increase by 8.9% from the previous year, and reach an all-time high of 2.05 million.

Currency swap

In an attempt to cash in on tourism revenue, the country's chief foreign exchange earner, the government brought in new regulations late last year, mandating tourist resorts to exchange $500 per tourist per month to the local currency or Maldivian Rufiyaa. Earlier this month, President Mohamed Muizzu said the revised banking regulations saw the tourism sector exchange $214 million into Maldivian Rufiyaa, thereby boosting foreign reserves.

RBI's assistance

While the Indian Ocean archipelago's economy is on relatively stable grounds this year, the government has debt servicing commitments nearing a billion dollars each this year and next. Last year, the Reserve Bank of India agreed to extend currency swap facilities amounting to $400 million and ₹30 billion, extending critical assistance when the Maldives faced a severe financial crunch.

Trump cut cancer research funding by 31%: Senate report

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration slashed cancer research funding by 31% in the first three months of 2025 compared to the same period last year, according to a Senate report released on Tuesday that accuses the White House of waging a "war on science."

The analysis, commissioned by Senator Bernie Sanders, found that as of April, at least $13.5 billion in funding had been terminated, including 1,660 grants, while thousands of scientific staff were fired.

Among the hardest hit was the National Cancer Institute, which lost more than $300 million from January to March. Its parent

Bernie Sanders

agency, the National Institutes of Health, lost $2.7 billion. "Since January, Trump has launched an unprecedented, illegal attack on science and scientists," said Mr. Sanders, the ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. "Trump is not only denying scientific truth but actively seeking to undermine it."

Netanyahu threatens more action as Israel attacks Gaza hospital

Agence France-Presse
KHAN YUNIS

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu says the military would enter Gaza 'with full force' in the coming days

Israel's military said it struck a Gaza hospital housing militants, in a raid on Tuesday that, according to Hamas, killed a journalist being treated after an Israeli attack last month.

The Gaza civil defence agency said that "the Israeli army bombed the surgery building at Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis at dawn on Tuesday, killing journalist Hassan Aslih".

The strike, which Hamas said happened at dawn, ended a brief pause in fighting to allow the release of a U.S.-Israeli hostage.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the military would enter Gaza "with full force" in the coming days, a statement from his office said Tuesday.

"In the very coming days, we are going in with full force to complete the operation. Completing the operation means defeating Hamas. It means destroying Hamas," Mr. Netanyahu said during a meeting with injured reserve soldierson Monday. "There will be no situation where we stop the war. A temporary ceasefire might happen, but we are going all the way," he added.

Ban on Bangladesh's Awami League is a concerning development, says India

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Days after the interim government of Bangladesh banned the oldest political party of the country, the Awami League, India on Tuesday described the development as a "concerning matter" and said the planned election in Bangladesh should be "inclusive".

The remark from Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal drew a quick response from Dhaka with the press secretary of the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh interim government

Bangladesh police lined up in Dhaka as activists celebrate after the government's ban on the Awami League on Saturday. AFP

reminding that everyone should respect the "sovereign" will of Bangladesh.

"The ban on the Awami League without due process is a concerning development. As a democracy, India is naturally concerned at curtailment of democratic freedoms and shrinking political space. We strongly support the early holding of free, fair and inclusive elections in Bangladesh," Mr. Jaiswal said.

Responding to India's remarks, Shafiqul Alam, Press Secretary to Chief Adviser Mohammed Yunus said, the Awami League during its tenure had "severely squeezed" Bangladesh's political space and "compromised" its sovereignty. "Elections are entirely our internal matter. We urge all to respect the sovereign will of our people in matters relating to elections," Mr. Alam said.

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-Mail:aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Bid No. 04/2024-25, Corrigendum No. 04
Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 04/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 02.06.2025. Other terms and conditions as per amended bid documents issued by this NIT corrigendum No. 03.
UBN No.: PHE2425WLOB07192
(Surendra Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (P)
DIPR/C/5976/2025 PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan

Rajasthan State Beverages Corporation Limited
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking), 5th Floor, CoERRA Bhawan, Near Aranya Bhawan, Jaipur Pin-302004, (Ph. 0141-2744231, Fax – 0141-2744237, Email - ed.rsbcl@rajasthan.gov.in, CIN-U15511RJ2005SGC020336)
NIB No. :- 05/929 Dated :- 09/05/2025
NOTICE INVITING e-BID
e-Bids for Selection of Franchisee of RSBCL for Setting up and Operations of BIO Wholesale Vends in Rajasthan are invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 pm on 05/06/2025. Other particulars of the bid may be downloaded from the procurement portal **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** of the state and **https://excise.rajasthan.gov.in.** The approximate value of the procurement is Rs 1.5 Crore.
UBN No. : BCL2526SLOB00006
Raj.Samwad/C/25/2150 Executive Director

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर मु. बाँसवाड़ा
क्रमांक: डी- 64 दिनांक: 28.04.2025
निविदा सूचना संख्या - 03/2025-26
NIB Code:- PWD2526A0323
सडक निर्माण कार्य हेतु इच्छुक संवेदको से ऑनलाईन माध्यम से दिनांक 06.05.2025 से 26.05.2025, सायं 06:00 बजे तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का अन्य विवरण वेबसाईट **(http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** और **http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in)** पर देखा जा सकता है। उपापन की कुल अनुमानित लागत राशि रू. **Rs. 1529.16** लाख है।
UBN- PWD2526WLOB00973 & PWD2526WLOB00974
(मथुरालाल मीणा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/5962/2025 सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर, मुख्यालय बाँसवाड़ा

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE KOTA
No. 272 Date : 28.04.2025
NIT No. 02/2025-26
Notice Inviting Bid, NIB No. PWD2526A0344
Bids for **Budget Announcement Year 2025-26 PWD Zone Kota** are invited **Road work** from interested bidders upto 6.00 pm, 26.05.2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the **Rajasthan** and **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs.12709.14 lacs. (9 Works)**
UBN No. -
1. PWD2526WLOB01047, 2. PWD2526WLOB01048, 3. PWD2526WSOB01049, 4. PWD2526WLOB01050, 5. PWD2526WLOB01051, 6. PWD2526WLOB01053, 7. PWD2526WLOB01055, 8. PWD2526WLOB01056, 9. PWD2526WLOB01057
Addl. Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/..../25 PWD Zone Kota

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail:- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Bid No. 06/2024-25, Corrigendum No. 04
Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 06/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 02.06.2025. Other terms and conditions as per amended bid documents issued by this NIT corrigendum No.03.
UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07194
(Surendra Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (P)
DIPR/C/__/2025 PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त बारां
क्रमांक: 232 **निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/2025-26** दिनांक: 30.04.2025
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **बजट घोषणा 2025-26 में घोषित सड़को के निर्माण कार्यों हेतु** उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। यू.बी.एन. संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
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DIPR/C/___/2025 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त बारां

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross, West of Chord Road, Bengaluru.
No.EE(MLP)/TEND/Kppp/03/2025-26 Date: 13.05.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
The Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, BBMP invites **Item Rate** Tenders from the registered contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways/MES or any State Govt. Organisations for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Improvement to Roads and Drains in Nanjappa Layout and Other Development Works in Ward No.53, Vrushabahavathi Nagara. **Estimate Cost (₹. in Lakhs): 250.00, EMD (in ₹.) 3,75.000/-.**
2.	Improvement to Roads and Drains and other Improvements works at Ganesha Block Saraswathipura & J.C. Nagara in Ward No.48, Mahalakshmipuram and Krishnandanagara Ward No.46, Rajeevnagara. **Estimate Cost (₹. in Lakhs): 250.00, EMD (in ₹.) 3,75.000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for Receipt of Queries **21.05.2025 up to 3:00 p.m. (2)** Pre bid meeting **21.05.2025 at 3:30 p.m. (3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **27.05.2025 up to 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **28.05.2025 after 4:30 p.m..**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, BBMP.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BALLARI THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through KPP Portal only)
Tenders are invited through KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works at BTPS.
(1) No.: KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT2858. Dated:06.05.2025 for **"Supervision and to carryout Preventive, Routine and Breakdown maintenance works of electrical system, locomotives illumination and associated auxiliaries of Unit-3 CHP at BTPS".** EMD: **Rs.1,95,927/-** Last date for receipt of tender: **26.05.2025.** Further deails can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (CHP) E2, BTPS, Kudathini-583 152 Ballari Dist., Mob:9448290788**
(2) No.: KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2866. Dated:07.05.2025 for **"Dismantling and laying/erection of approx.1200 meters of 200 NB MS ERW Bottom Ash and Economizer Ash slurry pipelines along with the providing and installation of modified couplings at Unit-3 Ash Handling Plant, BTPS".** Total Tender amount Excluding Taxes & Duties: **Rs.6.08 Lakhs.** Pre-bid Meeting on **15.05.2025 from 11.00 Hrs.** Last date & time for Receipt of tenders is on **22.05.2025 up to 17:00 hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (AHP-2),BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583 152 Ballari Dist., Contact Mobile Number:+91 9141609479**
(3) No.KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2862 Name of work: **"CHP I&C U#1,2, & 3: Carrying out I &C Routine, Preventive & breakdown maintenance works Coal handling Plant-Unit #1,2 &3 CHP BTPS".** EMD: **Rs. 2,03,400/-** Last date for receipt of tender: **09.06.2025.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (I&C),CHP, BTPS, Kudathini-583 152 Ballari Dist., Mob:09448290761**

INTENSE TRAINING

Kohli never liked practice matches, says former bowling coach Arun

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Virat Kohli never liked practice matches and preferred net sessions on the "spiciest" wicket with pacers having a go at him from 16 yards, former India bowling coach Bharat Arun said on Tuesday. "The fact is he always needed a challenge. That's what got him going," said Arun, who served during Kohli's years as India captain.

BIG SHOES TO FILL

It's advantage England following retirements of Rohit, Kohli: Moeen

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

The retirements of Indian batting stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli from Test cricket will give host England a "massive boost" in the upcoming series, said Moeen Ali. "I think it's a massive boost for England. The character they have, the leaders they (are), so yeah a massive loss for the team," said the former England all-rounder.

PARTNERSHIP ENDS

Murray and Djokovic part ways ahead of French Open

AFP

Andy Murray will no longer coach Novak Djokovic, with the high-profile partnership coming to an end after six months and no titles, the Briton's team said on Tuesday. The partnership ends as Djokovic looks to arrest a dip in form during the clay season ahead of his quest for a fourth title at Roland Garros.

ON TOP

Praggnanandhaa draws, maintains joint lead in Superbet Chess Classic

FILE PHOTO

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Poland's Duda Jan-Krzysztof to maintain joint lead with 3.5 points after the sixth round of the Superbet Chess Classic in Bucharest. France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave could do little with his white pieces as he drew very quickly with Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan.

Injuries, players away on national duty could spell trouble for RCB

As many as five first-choice picks may miss the business end of the Bengaluru outfit's campaign; it can seal playoffs spot with a win over KKR

IPL-18

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Just when it seemed that all the stars had aligned for Royal Challengers Bengaluru to finally end a 17-year Indian Premier League trophy drought, *Lady Fortuna* is seemingly smiling in a different direction.

With the IPL set for a restart from May 17 after cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan eased, RCB, which has three games remaining, can seal playoffs qualification with a win over Kolkata Knight Riders this Saturday.

But injuries, coupled with players going away for national duty, have put a giant spanner in the works, for as many as five first-choice players could miss the business end of RCB's campaign.

For a side that has already lost No. 3 batter Devdutt Padikkal to a hamstring injury, there are question marks over the fitness of star bowler Josh Hazlewood and captain Rajat Patidar.

In doubt: There is a question mark over captain Patidar's fitness while it remains to be seen whether English opener Salt returns. K. MURALI KUMAR

Hazlewood skipped the win over Chennai Super Kings on May 3 because of a shoulder niggle, but the 34-year-old was named on Tuesday in Australia's 15-man squad for World Test Championship final against South Africa from June 11.

Patidar, who was injured while fielding against CSK and briefly went off the field for treatment, did not bat in the practice session ahead of last Friday's game against Lucknow Super Giants, which was eventually cancelled. With India set to tour England from mid-June for a five-Test series, and an India-A shadow tour also planned, Patidar's health will be closely monitored.

The English duo of Phil Salt and Jacob Bethell left the country on Saturday, but with England set to commence its home ODI series against West Indies from May 29 – the same day the IPL playoffs begin – and the T20Is from June 6, it remains to be seen if the two return.

West Indies all-rounder Romario Shepherd, who starred in the narrow two-run win over CSK, is part of the roster that is set to face Ireland from May 21. West Indies did not qualify for the 2023 World Cup and these matches assume importance as the two-time champion looks to avoid a repeat in the next edition in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Cricket Australia leaves IPL return decision to players

Agence France-Presse
NEW DELHI

Cricket Australia said on Tuesday that it was up to its players to choose whether to return to the Indian Premier League and it would "support their individual decisions".

The IPL will resume on Saturday after being suspended since last week because of tension between India and Pakistan.

Backing the players

"Following the announcement that the IPL will resume on Saturday, Cricket Australia will support players in their individual decisions whether to return to India or not," CA said in a statement.

The IPL final has been rescheduled for June 3, eating into preparation time for the World Test Championship (WTC) final between Australia and South Africa at Lord's from June 11.

Australia's IPL players include Test captain Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Travis Head, who were all named in the squad for the WTC final and subsequent tour of the West Indies.

"Team management will work through the preparation implications for the World Test Championship Final for those players who choose to play," CA said.

"We are maintaining communication with the Australian government and BCCI around security arrangements and safety," it added.

Hazlewood plays for second-placed Royal Challengers Bengaluru, which will host defending champion Kolkata Knight Riders on Saturday.

Starc plays for Delhi Capitals, which can still make the playoffs, but Cummins and Head play for Sunrisers Hyderabad, which are already out of contention.

Bengaluru is one of six cities that will host the rest of the tournament along with Jaipur, Delhi, Lucknow, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

The venues for the playoffs and final, originally scheduled for Kolkata and Hyderabad, are yet to be announced.

England names five IPL players for WI ODI series

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

England has selected five IPL players in its one-day squad to face the West Indies, including former captain Jos Buttler, but has not ruled out allowing them to skip the series.

A fixture clash looms after the BCCI decided to resume the the tournament on Saturday with the final to be held on June 3.

England play three ODIs against West Indies, on May 29, June 1 and June 3 – the first series since Harry Brook was appointed as its full-time white-ball captain. England cricket chiefs are keen to show support for the BCCI but also want to put out a full-strength team.

England also announced on Tuesday a squad for a three-match Twenty20 series against West Indies, starting on June 6.

The squads:

ODI: Harry Brook (Capt.), Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Tom Banton, Jacob Bethell, Jos Buttler, Brydon Carse, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Saqib Mahmood, Jamie Overton, Matthew Potts, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jamie Smith (wk).

T20I: Brook (Capt.), Rehan Ahmed, Banton, Bethell, Buttler (wk), Carse, Liam Dawson, Duckett, Jacks, Mahmood, Overton, Potts, Rashid, Phil Salt (wk), Luke Wood.

Green back for Australia; S. Africa includes Rabada

WTC FINAL

Reuters
CAPE TOWN

Australia named all-rounder Cameron Green in its 15-man squad on Tuesday for the World Test Championship (WTC) final where its will face South Africa at Lord's from June 11 to 15.

Green was diagnosed with a stress fracture in his lower back during the One-Day International series in England last year and had surgery in October but returned playing for Gloucestershire in English county cricket last month.

Skipper Pat Cummins, who missed the tour of Sri Lanka due to the birth of his second child in February and was also ruled out of the Champions Trophy campaign with an ankle injury, will take the reins against South Africa.

Fellow pace bowler Josh Hazlewood was also included after a spell out with a hip injury.

Australia won the World Test Championship in 2023 after beating India in the final at The Oval.

Teenager Sam Konstas was also included in the squad, adding a specialist option for the opener's spot, but media reports in Australia said the team could elevate Marnus Labuschagne from No. 3.

Impactful player: Green lends much balance to the Australian squad. GETTY IMAGES

The squad will then embark on a tour of the Caribbean where they will play West Indies in three Tests from June 25.

South Africa has included Kagiso Rabada in its squad for the final following the fast bowler's return from a suspension having tested positive for a banned substance.

Rabada spent a month on the sidelines at the Indian Premier League after testing positive for a recreational drug at this year's SA20 competition.

He is likely to lead the fast-bowling attack with seamers Marco Jansen, Corbin Bosch, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi and Dane Paterson also in the squad. Keshav Maharaj and Senuran Muthusamy are the two specialist spin options.

Captain Temba Bavuma heads the list of batters along with Aiden Markram, Tony de Zorzi, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs and David Bedingham, while Kyle Verreynne is the specialist wicketkeeper in the squad.

The squads: Australia: Pat Cummins (Capt.), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Matt Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Beau Webster.

Travelling reserve: Brendan Doggett.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Capt.), David Bedingham, Corbin Bosch, Tony de Zorzi, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Senuran Muthusamy, Lungi Ngidi, Dane Paterson, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs and Kyle Verreynne.

Alcaraz and Paolini battle on in the Italian Open

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Carlos Alcaraz reached the Italian Open quarterfinals on Tuesday after battling past Karen Khachanov 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 to continue his bid for a first Rome title.

Third seed Alcaraz had never lost a set in his previous four meetings with Russia's Khachanov, but was forced to fight on the Foro Italico centre court.

Alcaraz needs to get to the Rome semifinals not just for a chance at his third title of the season but also to secure a top-two seeding at the French Open which begins later this month.

The Spaniard took his 12th clay-court win of the year to set up a clash in the last eight with fifth seed Jack Draper, a winner over France's Corentin Moutet.

Alcaraz seemed set to cruise through when he rattled off six games in a row to win the first set and the first game of the second.

Khachanov's fate looked sealed when his serve was broken in game five of the second set, but the big hitter had other ideas and immediately broke back before claiming the set.

And the 28-year-old showed incredible spirit to win three games on the bounce to level the third set at 4-4, just as Alcaraz look certain to win.

Stretched: Alcaraz was forced to push hard against Khachanov to keep his quest for a first Rome title alive. REUTERS

But Alcaraz would not be denied and took an entertaining match at the second time of asking.

Lorenzo Musetti reached the quarterfinals after heavy rain forced him to wait nearly three hours at match point before he could finish off his 7-5, 6-4 victory over Daniil Medvedev.

In the women's quarterfinals, Jasmine Paolini rallied past Diana Shnaider 6-7(1), 6-4, 6-2 to become the first Italian woman to reach the semifinals in Rome since her doubles partner, Sara Errani, lost the 2014 final to Serena Williams.

Paolini was trailing 3-0 in the second set when the match was briefly stopped due to rain. Shnaider went on to hold serve and go ahead 4-0 after the suspension but then Paolini won six straight games to take the set. "It was a good thing that it rained for five minutes. I got some coaching from Sara," Paolini said of Errani, who was watching from the stands.

When Paolini took control in the third set, the crowd began singing, "Ole, Ole, Ole; Jas-mine, Jas-mine."

The last Italian woman to win the Italian Open was Raffaella Reggi, who took the title in 1985 in Taranto.

The results:

Fourth round: Draper bt Moutet 1-6, 6-4, 6-3; Alcaraz bt Khachanov 6-3, 3-6, 7-5; Musetti bt Medvedev 7-5, 6-4; Hurkacz bt Mensik 7-6(5), 4-6, 7-6(5).

Third round: Ruud bt Berrettini 7-5, 2-0 (retd).

Women: Quarterfinals: Paolini bt Shnaider 6-7(1), 6-4, 6-2.

Srija and Mungunzul in joint lead

Press Trust of India
AL AIN (UAE)

Overnight sole leader, Woman Grandmaster Srija Seshadri earned a hard-fought draw against Vantika Agrawal to remain in joint lead after the seventh round of the Asian continental women's chess championship on Tuesday.

Srija took her tally to six points and is now ahead along with Mongolian Mungunzul Bat-Erdene, who beat P.V. Nandhidhaa. In Open section, second-placed Indian Murali Karthikeyan drew with another Russian Sergei Lobanov.

Top results (seventh round):
Open: Ivan Zemlyanskii (FIDE, 5.5) drew with Bardiya Daneshvar (Iri, 6); Murali Karthikeyan (5) drew with Sergei Lobanov (FIDE, 5); M. Pranesh (5) drew with G.B. Harshavardhan (5); Nihal Sarin (5) bt Rinat Jumabayev (Kaz, 4); Amin Tabatabaei (Iri, 4.5) drew with Raja Rithvik (4.5); Abhimanyu Puranik (5) bt Sina Movahed (Iri, 4); S. Aswath (4.5) drew with Xu Xiangyu (Chn, 4); Lev Zverev (FIDE, 4.5) drew with P. Iniyan (4.5); Bai Jinshi (Chn, 4.5) drew with A.R. Ilamparthi (4); Huang Renjie (Chn, 5) bt Bharath Subramaniyam (4); Jiang Haochen (Chn, 4) lost to Pranav Anand (5). **Women:** Vantika Agrawal (5.5) drew with Srija Seshadri (6); P.V. Nandhidhaa (5) lost to Mungunzul Bat-Erdene (Mgl, 6); Swati Ghate (5) drew with Pham Le Thao Nguyen (Vie, 4.5); Galina Mikheeva (FIDE, 4.5) drew with Padmini Rout (4); B. Savitha Shri (4.5) drew with Rouda Essa Alserkal (UAE, 4.5).

INBRIEF

Fitness guru Basu Shanker's new book on sale now

Fitness guru Basu Shanker's new book titled *1234 The Fitness Guide* brought out by *Sportstar*, is now available for sale. The first copies of the book were handed to squash star Dipika Pallikal and film director Vetrimaaran. In this book, Basu explores the world of fitness and strength and conditioning from multiple angles, aiming to help athletes, trainers and fitness aficionados gain a better understanding of fitness programmes. Basu, who has a 30-plus-year experience in the field, has worked with elite athletes like Virat Kohli and Dinesh Karthik. He currently serves as the strength and conditioning coach of the IPL side RCB and has also fulfilled the role for the Indian men's cricket national team from 2015 to 2019. The book can be purchased online at *https://publications.thehindugroup.com /bookstore/Purchase*

India qualifies for knock-out stage in Junior BJK Cup

The Indian girls beat Iran and Uzbekistan in the league phase to ensure their qualification for the knock-out stage, along with Australia from their group, in the Junior Billie Jean King Cup under-16 tennis tournament in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Tuesday. India will play Australia in the last league match on Wednesday to decide the group topper. All the other seeded teams – Japan, Chinese Taipei, Korea, New Zealand, China and Kazakhstan – have also qualified for the knock-out with two wins each from as many matches. The top four teams from the region will qualify for the World Group stage.

The results (league): India bt Iran 3-0 (Anandita Upadhyay bt Saba Kheyrmanesh 6-3, 6-2; Aahan bt Melina Abbaszadeh 6-0, 6-0; Parthsarthi Mundhe & Anandita bt Melina & Saba 6-1, 6-0).
India bt Uzbekistan 2-1 (Anandita bt Djeparova Veronika 6-1, 6-0; Aahan lost to Keira Kim 3-6, 6-3, 1-6; Aahan & Parthsarthi bt Emily Kim & Keira Kim 6-3, 3-6, [10-8]).

Srikanth out; Tharun, Ira in Thailand Open main draw

India's K. Srikanth bowed out while Tharun Mannepalli and Ira Sharma qualified for the main draw of the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament in Bangkok on Tuesday. Tharun, 23, defeated Chinese-Taipei's Kuo Kuan Lin 17-21, 21-19, 21-17 in the men's singles round-of-16 before overcoming Srikanth 21-6, 21-19 in the quarterfinals of the Qualifiers. Ayush Shetty thrashed lower-ranked Joakim Oldorff of Finland 21-10, 21-11 in the round-of-16 before going down to Malaysia's Justin Hoh 21-14, 22-20. Ira defeated Myanmar's Thet Htar Thuzar 18-21, 21-12, 21-8 in the round-of-16 before downing local player Thamonwan Nithiittikrai 21-12, 21-18. Sathish Karunakaran lost in the opening round of qualifiers to Malaysia's Aidil Sholeh 17-21, 21-12, 12-21.

Forest striker Awoniyi has abdominal surgery

Nottingham Forest striker Taiwo Awoniyi has had "urgent" surgery on a serious abdominal injury sustained in last weekend's Premier League match with Leicester, it was announced on Tuesday.

Wawrinka and Gasquet get French Open wild cards

Former champion Stan Wawrinka, *in pic.*, and French veteran Richard Gasquet received wild card entries for this year's French Open, organisers said on Tuesday. Wawrinka, Switzerland's 40-year-old three-time Major champion, who has been battling back from a series of injuries, has dropped to 132 in the ATP rankings. He won the title in Paris in 2015. The French Open will be held from May 25 to June 8.

LIVE TELECAST

Tennis: Italian Open, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 10.30 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Thursday)

Atalanta downs Roma, books Champions League spot

Sulemana scores the winner; Gasperini's side is third and has a seven-point cushion over Juventus; Venezia gets past Fiorentina and takes a big step towards staying in the league for another year

SERIE A

Reuters
BERGAMO

A second-half goal by substitute Ibrahim Sulemana earned Atalanta a 2-1 home win over AS Roma in Serie A on Monday, securing Champions League qualification for Gian Piero Gasperini's side.

Sulemana sealed the three points for Atalanta in the 76th minute, scoring with a low strike from just outside the area, after Roma midfielder Bryan Cristante cancelled out an early opener by Ademola Lookman.

Atalanta, which fell behind in the title race, sits third in the standings on 71 points and has a seven-point cushion over fourth-placed Juventus and Lazio in fifth with two games left to play.

Roma, which failed to capitalise on Lazio and Juventus dropping points in a 1-1 stalemate on Saturday, is sixth with 63 points.

Atalanta snapped the visitor's impressive unbeaten league run of 19 games, with Claudio Ranieri's side previously having been defeated in mid-December at Como.

Things started brightly for Atalanta as Lookman stroked in past Roma goalkeeper Mile Svilar to put it in front after nine minutes.

Drawing blood: Lookman made sure Roma custodian Svilar could only look behind as the ball went in. REUTERS

Charles De Ketelaere dribbled past the Roma defence to set the Nigerian up with a precise low cross inside the box, and the striker controlled the ball to score inside the right post.

It was Atalanta's 100th goal this season across all competitions.

De Ketelaere had two good chances to double the advantage, but Roma midfielder Cristante levelled for the visitors instead, netting with a flicked header after the half-hour mark.

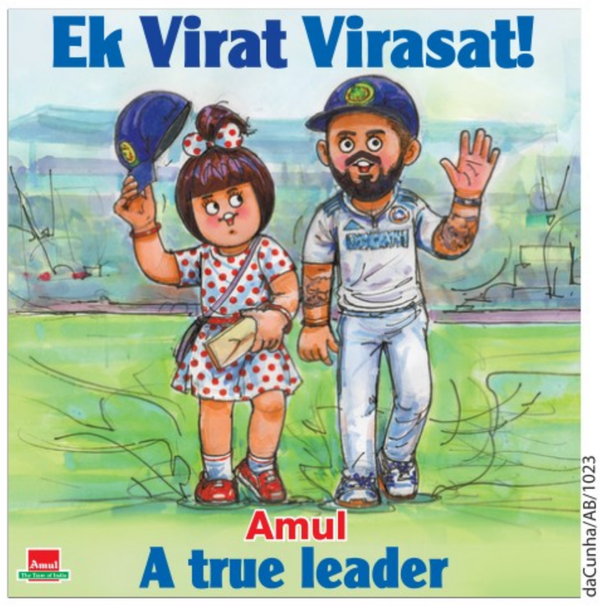
Things slowed down significantly after a lively first half until Roma was awarded a penalty after an hour of play, following a clash between Atalanta's Mario Pasalic and Manu Kone.

The referee, however, overturned his decision after consulting VAR.

Sulemana eventually restored the lead for Atalanta in the 76th minute, scoring with a low strike from just outside the area – a goal that stood after a VAR check for a potential offside.

Earlier, Venezia beat Fiorentina 2-1 and took a giant step towards securing its Serie A status for another year. It rose out of the relegation zone and into fourth-from-last place. The last three teams go down and with two matches left to play, Venezia holds its destiny in its own hands.

The results: Atalanta 2 (Lookman 9, Sulemana 76) bt Roma 1 (Cristante 32); Venezia 2 (Fali Cande 60, Oristanio 68) bt Fiorentina 1 (Mandragora 77).



Junior women's hockey team to compete in four-nation tournament

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The junior Indian women's hockey team will compete in a four-nation tournament in Argentina from May 25 to kick-start its preparations for the World Cup later this year.

The team will travel to Rosario where it will play six friendly matches against hosts Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile.

India will open the campaign with a match against Chile on May 25 and will clash with Uruguay the next day.

After a rest day, the team will take on Argentina on May 28.

The team will follow the same sequence in the return leg, taking on Chile on May 30, Uruguay on June 1, and Argentina on June 2.

Crucial

"This tour is a crucial part of the team's preparations for the FIH Hockey Junior Women's World Cup, scheduled to take place in Santiago, Chile, in December 2025," Hockey India said in a release.

"We are preparing for the Junior World Cup later this year. We are looking to identify the best of the best from this squad with the World Cup in mind," coach Tushar Khandker said.

The Indian team is scheduled to depart for Rosario on May 21.

Hesson is Pakistan's new white-ball coach

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

New Zealand's Mike Hesson was on Tuesday named as Pakistan's new white-ball head coach. The Pakistan Cricket Board announced that Hesson will join the side on May 26, a day after the conclusion of the Pakistan Super League.

Hesson is the fifth foreign head coach appointed with the Pakistan team since 2023 and follows Grant Bradburn, Mickey Arthur, Simon Helmet, Gary Kirsten and Gillespie.

Aaqib Javed, who was named interim coach, will be the new Director of the National Cricket Academy.

SNAPSHOTS

Dilbag disappoints, Nirupama fourth

Indian weightlifter Dilbag Singh finished ninth in the men's 96kg category at the Asian Championships in Jiangshan on Tuesday. The reigning National Games champion registered a total lift of 339kg –147kg in snatch and 192kg in clean and jerk. Iran's Alipour Ali claimed gold with a total of 390kg, followed by Korea's Won Jongbeom with 385kg. The bronze went to Iran's Moeini Sedeh Alireza, who lifted 383kg . Earlier, Nirupama Devi had narrowly missed a medal, finishing fourth in the women's 64kg category.

Wrestling team for Ulaanbaatar Open

The Wrestling Federation of India has named wrestlers for the Ulaanbaatar Open Ranking Series in the Mongolian capital from May 29 to June 1. After missing two Ranking Series events, this is the first one of the season where the Indian wrestlers will be able to participate following the Sports Ministry's decision to revoke its suspension of the WFI.

The team: Men: Freestyle: Aman Sehrawat, Rahul (57kg), Udit (61kg), Rohit (65kg), Vishal Kaliraman (70kg), Jaideep (74kg), Amit (79kg), Ashish (86kg), Deepak Punia (92kg), Vicky (97kg), Dinesh (125kg); **Greco Roman:** Anil Mor (55kg), Suraj (60kg), Chetan (63kg), Neeraj (67kg), Ankit Gulia (72kg), Nishant Phogat (77kg), Prince (82kg), Karan Kamboj (87kg), Nitesh (97kg), Prem (130kg); **Women:** Neelam (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Pushpa (55kg), Neha (57kg), Muskan (59kg), Manisha (62kg), Shiksha (65kg), Monika (68kg), Harshita (72kg), Reetika (76kg).

Bopanna-Pavlasek pair loses in pre-quarterfinals

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Rohan Bopanna and Adam Pavlasek of the Czech Republic lost 6-3, 6-3 to Great Britain's Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski in the pre-quarterfinals of the €8,055,385 ATP tennis tournament in Rome on Tuesday.

Bopanna and Pavlasek were richer by €30,540.

The results: €8,055,385 ATP, Rome: Doubles:
Pre-quarterfinals: Joe Salisbury & Neal Skupski (GBr) bt Rohan Bopanna & Adam Pavlasek (Cze) 6-3, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF men, Prijedor, Bosnia & Herzegovina:
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Aryan Lakshmanan & Gabriele Noce (Ita) bt Maximilian Homberg & Michel Hopp (Ger) 7-5, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF men, Bucharest: Doubles:
Pre-quarterfinals: Giuseppe La Vela (Ita) & Kai Wehnelt (Ger) bt Gregorio Biondolillo (Ita) & Chirag Duhan 5-7, 7-5, [10-5].
$15,000 ITF men, Tehran: Doubles:
Pre-quarterfinals: S.D. Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Airik Abedinzadeh & Kiarash Sadeghizeidi (Iri) 6-3, 6-4.
Dev Javia & Caheer Warik bt Cemil Duran & Bora Sengul (Tur) 7-5, 5-1 (retired).
Maan Kesharwani & Atharva Sharma bt Chinmaya Dev Chauhan & Maties Ramis (Esp) 6-2, 7-6(2).
$30,000 ITF women, Changwon, Korea:
First round: Hong Yi Cody Wong (Hkg) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(5).
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Qiu Yu Ye & Wushuang Zheng (Chn) bt Vaidehi & Punnin Kovapitukted (Tha) 6-1, 6-1.
$15,000 ITF women, Monzon, Spain:
First round: Madhurima Sawant bt Celine Simunyu (Irl) 6-2, 6-3.
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Marie Villet (Fra) & Clara Vlasselaer (Bel) bt Suhani Patil & Angela Caral (Esp) 6-0, 6-1.
$15,000 ITF women, Tsaghkadzor, Armenia:
First round: Daria Koreshkova bt Akanksha Nitture 7-5, 3-6, 7-6(5).
Alena Kharchenko bt Soha Sadiq 6-2, 6-7(6), 6-2.
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Daria Belyaeva & Alexandra Cheishvili bt Iveta Dapkute (Ltu) & Pooja Ingale 6-1, 6-3.

He took the call as a professional, not as a superstar

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

To lose one experienced batter before a tour of England might be unfortunate; to lose two seems like carelessness. And yet, it is possible that picking Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli would have been more a tribute to the past than a solution for the present. A new generation is being thrown into the fray, and there's nothing wrong with that.

For so long has Kohli been Mr. Indian cricket that it will be difficult to countenance a future without him. He was a cultural force, a representative of an India with more money, more talent, more aggression than any other team.

A drawn match meant nothing to him, victory was all. From his first Test in charge in Adelaide, where he scored two centuries and brought India to the doorstep before they lost, he showed a willingness to reach for a win against the odds. At a time when obituaries were being written of Test cricket, he infused it with the excitement and depth unavailable in the white ball game.

Being himself

Unlike Sachin Tendulkar who was conscious of appearing to do the right thing always and wouldn't do anything that hurt his image as a national icon, the early Kohli didn't really care. What you got was what he was, and if you didn't like it, then too bad.

When he carried the senior man around the stadium after the World Cup win of 2011, he said that Tendulkar had been carrying India on his shoulders for so long it was time to return the favour. Kohli might still play the 2027 World Cup, and a youngster man might carry him on his shoulders. He will be 38 then, the same age as Tendulkar was.

Watching Kohli evolve from a brash, self-centred boy to the mature eminence grise he became has given as much joy as his cover drive or that unique slapping on-drive he played. He understands cricket, and not just its technicalities, but its ethos and civilisational aspects too.

He played with an intensity that others aspired to but rarely matched, keeping reactions to disappointments for private moments. As his wife Anushka said on Instagram, "I'll remember the tears you never showed, the battles no one saw; I know how much all this took from you..."

For those who saw in the best batters the zeitgeist of a nation, Tendulkar was the poster boy of economic liberalisation. Before him Sunil Gavaskar represented the rise of the middle class. It is tempting to see Kohli as the embodiment of modern India, pugnacious, confrontational, combative but that is only partially true.

In a nation with few who can claim to be world class, he stood out both as a symbol and an aspiration. Tendulkar, close to being a genius, didn't inspire in the same way since fans realised he couldn't be imitated. It is the Kohlis of the world who are emulated.

With some 270 million followers on Instagram and 70 million on 'X', Kohli is the post-modern cricketer, his statistics probably better known in India than the Constitution.

On the 2014 tour of England, he failed repeatedly, making 134 in ten innings; on the next tour, he made more than that in his first innings of the series and finished with two centuries and 593 runs. It was done with such inevitability that many assumed he would work it out through the dip of the last three years as he averaged 32 in 22 Tests. But his body and mind, both fitter than others' was also ageing faster through three different formats. Kohli's generation might be the last of the 100-Test men who play all formats.

Greatest

Kohli is easily the greatest all-format player India has produced, perhaps the best the game has seen. Tendulkar played just one T20 international, Gavaskar none at all. For long Kohli averaged over 50 in each format. He still averages 58 in ODI and 49 in T20, but his Test average will remain at 46.85, his aggregate 770 short of ten thousand.

It is unlikely that will worry him at all. Nor will it worry him that he wasn't given a Tendulkar-like send-off, with a special series and a final Test at home. He took the call as a professional, not as a superstar. Cricket will be the poorer, even if we have been enriched by his game and the energy he brought to it.

National shooting trials in Dehradun from June 24

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) will host the third and fourth selection trials at the Maharana Pratap Sports College in Dehradun from June 24 to 30.

These trials will help in the selection of the national team for the Asian championship in Kazakhstan in August, apart from the World Cups in China and Egypt later in the year.

Limited slots

Unlike the normal course, these trials will be restricted to a limited number of slots.

There will be 50 slots for air rifle and air pistol.

It will be 30 slots for rifle 3-position event and the 25m sports pistol, while it will be only 20 slots for 25m rapid fire pistol.